35c

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

AUGUST 25th, 1977, ISSUE No. 32

GIANT TUNA HIT MONTAUK!

See News Story Page 20.

Catch more fish with the practical

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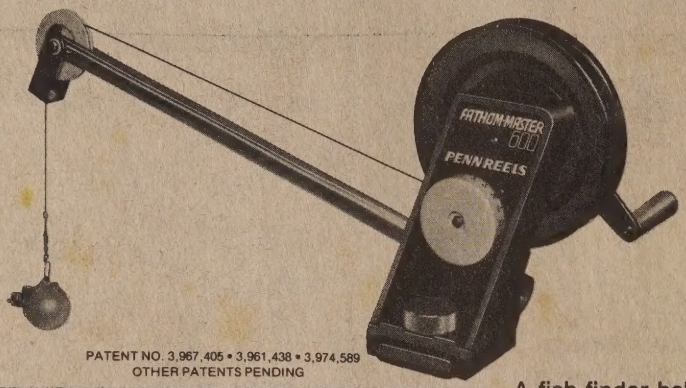

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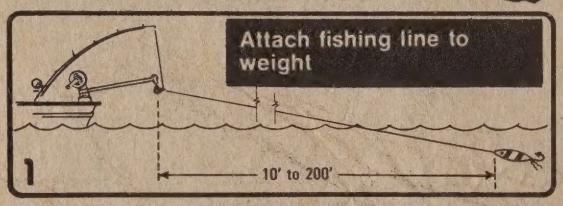

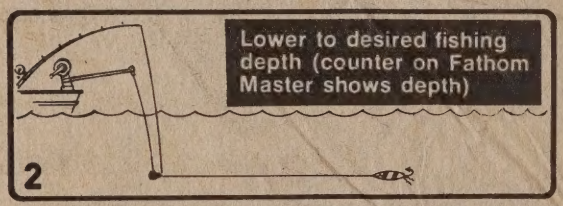

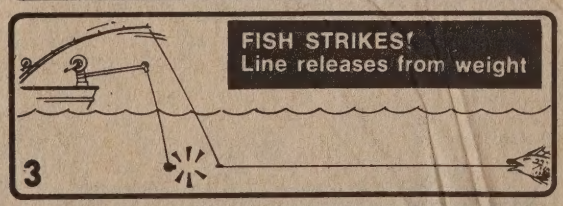

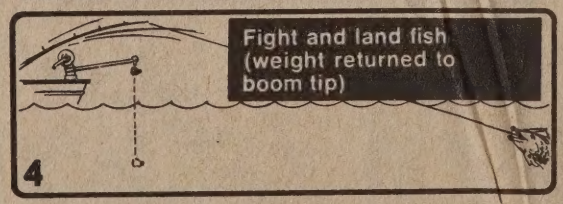

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PENN REELS

BOATING

FREE BOATING CLASSES SCHEDULED IN BROOKLYN

Brooklyn Power Squadron, unit of United States Power Squadrons, will again hold free classes in Boating for area residents who are interested in learning how to operate boats safely. The overall theme is "Boating is Fun—Safe Boating is More Fun."

Registration for this Basic Boating Course will be conducted on Thursday, September 8th at 7 PM at St. Francis College, 180 Remsen Street, just a half block from Brooklyn Borough Hall.

Skippers and would-be skippers, both men and women and youngsters over 16, are invited to attend this 12-week course and learn the safe way to participate in this growing sport. Ownership of a boat is not required.

Classes will be held on Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. starting on September 15th. The instruction covers the technique of safe handling of inboard and outboard craft, anchoring, line handling and basic knots, reading nautical charts, plotting position and courses, use of the mariner's compass and safety afloat.

The efficient use of power boats for maximum mileage is described. Aids to navigation, such as buoys and radio beacons, are explained in illustrated lectures. The basic rules of the road for safe operation are stressed.

Brooklyn Power Squadron conducts the classes without charge. Skilled and experienced boatmen lend their skills and experience to teach those interested in acquiring the proficiency they need for safety on water. Additional information may be obtained by calling ST 8-9006.

****

Flotilla Commander Harry Frankel of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary has announced that Flotilla 11-8 will conduct a free Public Education Class dealing with the arts of boating skills and safety. This will be a 16-lesson course, and is the longest-known such course as given by the Auxiliary. Eleven lessons will take the student through the art of boat handling, to the knowledge of radio-telephone communication. Five lessons (10) hours will be devoted to the physical aspect of plotting courses on nautical charts. The course starts on Monday night, September 12, 1977, and will be rendered every Monday night from 8:00 to 10:00 PM. The course will be given in the Clubhouse of the Diamond Point Y.C., in the Canarsie Section in Brooklyn, N.Y., which is located at 1350 Paedergat Av. North, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11236. Need more Info? Call the Commander any business day, 9:30 to 4:30, 212-868-8853, or write to him at the Club.

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Difference Between Just Fishing and Catching Fish!

VOL. 12, No. 32 AUGUST 25th, 1977

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SurfSide:
BAITFISHING AT LIDO

About the Cover—

The giant bluefin tuna have arrived in force at Montauk and are providing a lot of action for the offshore boats 18 miles east of Block Island. This giant of 996 lbs. was taken on Friday aboard Capt. Gene Kelly's charterboat SEA DOLL. See the Montauk fishing reports on page 20 for details.

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER
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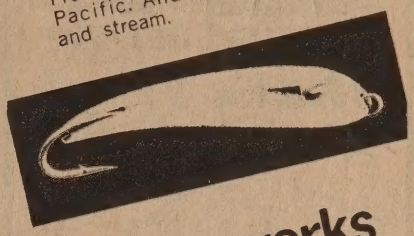

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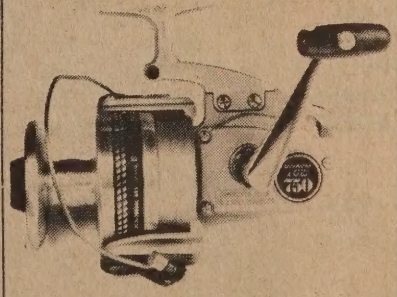

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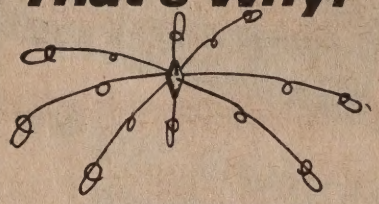

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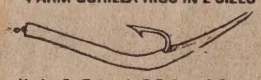

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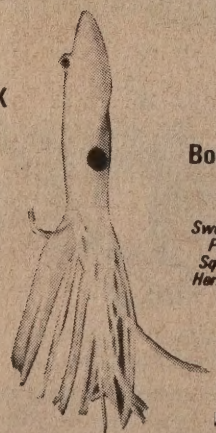

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EDITORIAL

★★★

Contests & Tournaments

SHEEPSHEAD BAY TUNA CLUB

The Sheepshead Bay Tuna Club is proud to announce their 17th Annual Tuna Tournament to be held September 3, 4, 5, 1977 (Labor Day Weekend). The entire New York Bight is included (New York, New Jersey, Long Island). Weigh-in stations will be Charvin Fishing Station, **Jones Inlet**; Hennings Fishing Station, **Debs Inlet**; Kesgal Snug Harbor, **Highlands**; Kings Grant Marina, **Manasquan Inlet**; Mansion Marina, **Staten Island**; Stella Maris Fishing Station, **Rockaway Inlet**. A marine biologist will be at each weigh-in station to act as tournament weigh-master and to collect internal organs of tuna for the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Research Program. The angler will keep all of the tuna caught, except certain internal organs needed for the research program. The entry fee will be $15 per angler. Rules, regulations and tournament patches will be mailed upon receipt of entry fee.

There will be a first, second, and third prize for the heaviest tuna caught, and a prize for the heaviest tuna caught each tournament day. A Captains' meeting will be held at the Brooklyn Yacht Club at Knapp Street and Voorhies Ave., Brooklyn, N.Y. on Monday, August 29, 1977 at 8:00 p.m. Don't wait—mail your entry today and enjoy a great tournament and help the Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Research Program. Mail entries to: **S.B.T.C., 1317 Oriental Blvd., Brooklyn, New York 11235**. Do not mail cash. Make checks payable to the Sheepshead Bay Tuna Club Tournament.

PATCHOGUE FISHING CLUB CASTING TOURNY RESULTS

On August 7, the Patchogue Fishing Club had its annual Casting Tournament at Bluepoint. The results of that tournament are:

Spin Class A: Tom Kelenbeck - 400' 4''; Tom Forbes - 383' 3''.

Class B: Lee Wolfson - 318' 3''; Bruce Wolfson - 313' 4''.

Class C: Vic Yannacone - 252' 9''; Barbara Forbes - 250'.

Conventional—Class A - Jim Belmonte - 322'; Willard Maginnes - 207' 8''.

Class B - George Dietz - 188' 10''; Vic Yannacone - 179' 10''.

Class C - Tom Ganetis - 154' 4''; Tom Forbes - 124'.

ACCURACY CASTING

Class A: Tom Kelenbeck - 79 pts.; Jim Belmonte - 72 pts.

Class B: Mickey Moore, 56 pts.; Bruce Wilfson, 55 pts.

Class C: Peggy Cromeyen, 37 pts.; Barbara Forbes, 33 pts.

BLIND ACCURACY CASTING

Mickey Moore; Willard Maginnes; Jim Belmonte; Bruce Wolfson, and Barbara Forbes.

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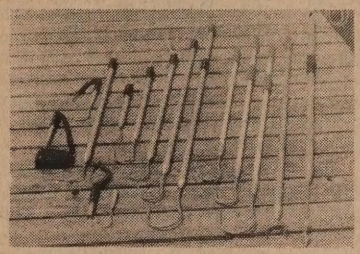

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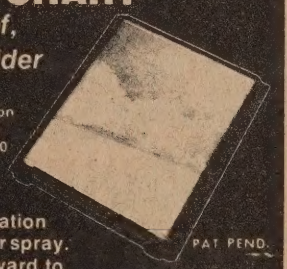

illustration contains S.C. #120

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- Dial-a-Chart can be used for most Small Craft charts issued by the U.S. Government
- Easily stored
- Can be used as a serving tray when inverted

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Pass It On...

FREE LOAN FILMS

Fishing clubs and other organizations may wish to take advantage of free loan film services recently established by the American Fishing Tackle Manufacturers Association and by the U. S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

AFTMA's offerings of fishing films are all 16mm with sound and color, and range from five to thirty-five minutes in length. Subjects cover fresh and salt-water angling in various areas of the world, as well as the basics of learning to fish. For film descriptions and ordering information, write to: Fishing USA, Association Films, Inc., 866 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

NOAAs offerings include more than 50 films on such diverse subjects as ocean and weather research, precautions to take in the event of severe storms, the coastal environment, and preparation of seafood. All are 16mm, most are in color, and they run up to 48 minutes in length. For a copy of the film catalog, write to: Motion Picture Service, NOAA, 12231 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

NMFS ANNOUNCES CLOSURE OF U.S.S.R. SQUID & MACKEREL FISHERY

William G. Gordon, Regional Director, Northeast Region, National Marine Fisheries Service, announced today the recent closure of the U.S.S.R. squid and mackerel fishery in the Northwest Atlantic. Under the Bilateral Fisheries Agreement between the U. S. and U.S.S.R., called a Governing International Fisheries Agreement or GIFA, the U.S.S.R. was permitted to harvest 22,800 metric tons of mackerel and 7,492 metric tons of short-finned squid, among other species authorized. The GIFA and associated allocations to foreign countries is authorized under our new 200 Mile Law, The Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1976.

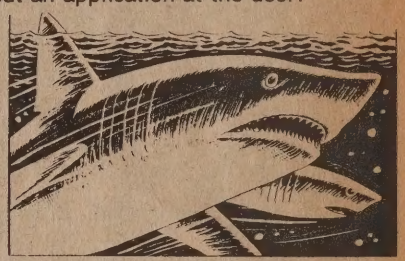
The U.S.S.R. harvested its mackerel allocation during January and February and is, therefore, not authorized to enter the mackerel fishery which opens for foreign nations on October 1. While the U.S.S.R. does have an allocation remaining for long-finned squid (Loligo), their short-finned squid (Illex) directed fishery allocation was harvested by August 7. A 97-metric-ton Illex allocation remains for the U.S.S.R. pending payment of appropriate fees to the U.S. However, this remaining allocation may be harvested only as by-catch taken incidental to other fisheries authorized later this year.

The two closures represent the first during 1977 in the Northwest Atlantic pertaining to foreign fishing. Other nations are approaching their allocated amounts and will be similarly informed when those amounts have been harvested.

Foreign harvest is monitored continuously by the National Marine Fisheries Service through boarding by National Marine Fisheries and Coast Guard agents, Fisheries Service observers living aboard foreign fishing vessels, and mandatory reporting of catches by foreign nations.

TAORMINA OF D.E.C. TO SPEAK AT AUGUST MEETING OF L.I. SPORTFISHING COUNCIL

The August meeting of the Long Island Sportfishing Council will be held this Thursday, August 25th, at the Holiday Inn in Plainview at 7:30 P.M. The guest speaker at the August 25th meeting of the L.I. Sportfishing Council will be Anthony Taormina, Director of Marine and Coastal Resources for the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (D.E.C.). Mr. Taormina will speak on the future of sportfishing on Long Island and what actions the Sportfishing Council may take, in his estimation, to insure that future. Mr. Taormina may also speak on the D.E.C.'s proposed bill limiting the gillnetting and trapping of weakfish during their spawning season. If you are not presently a member of the Council and would like to be, please come and fill out an application at the door.



IN MEMORIAM

Two local, well known skippers from our area passed away last week and their loss will be felt by all of us in the industry.

CAPT. BILL JOSEPH, the founder Captree's Capt. Joseph Fleet, passed away last Tuesday, August 16th, 1977 after battling a long illness. Bill was in charter and open boat fishing for nearly 40 years. He was 72 years of age and had retired just a few years ago. Bill is survived by his wife, 3 sons and several grandchildren. Now numbering 5 vessels, Bill started the Joseph Fleet with one boat from Babylon, then in the early 50's, moved into Captree and built the fleet into what it is today.

CAPT. LOU DiBLASIO died of a heart attack on Sat. A.M. Aug. 20th, 1977, while getting ready to sail out on another fluke trip. Lou still sailed every day, even though he was over 80 years of age. He had planned to retire at the end of this season, but never made it. Lou started with the Viking Fleet, then ran one of the old "Capt. Jack" boats, then bought his own "Capt. Lou II" which he sailed from Freeport's Woodcleft Canal. Lou got his wish in life...to die with his boots on, fishing on his boat...

Both of these skippers will be missed by the fishing public, their families, friends, and the entire L.I.F. Staff.

NEW BOOKS

NORTH FORK & SHELTER ISLAND GUIDEBOOK

AT LAST! A Guidebook about the North Fork! The brand new **North Fork and Shelter Island Guidebook** has 128 pages and covers dozens of subjects on land and sea—including golfing, tennis, hiking, emergency services, camping, nature trails, horseback riding, and bicycling. It is chock-full of information about scuba diving, sailing, yacht clubs, fishing stations, party boats, and charter boats. Local shellfishing regulations and beach permit requirements are explained. All usable boat launching ramps have been unearthed. Most of the articles and many of the illustrations are by local people. The 50 illustrations show fish, shellfish, birds, plants, fishing rigs, and historic sights.

The North Fork and Shelter Island Guidebook provides detailed instructions—gathered from fishing station managers and charter boat captains—about locations, depths, baits, fishing rigs, and techniques for catching porgies, flounder, fluke, blackfish, weakfish, striped bass, and bluefish. The fishing information is geared primarily to the Peconic Bays, Plum Gut, Long Island Sound, and the area around Gardiner's Island, but the techniques are valid for inshore and bay fishing throughout Long Island waters. There are many tips that will be of interest to experienced fishermen. This is the best single source of information on how to catch the fish found in North Fork fishing grounds.

Purchasers of the Guidebook also receive **Free** copies of comprehensive information charts detailing facilities and rates for **ALL** North Fork and Shelter Island motels, hotels, inns, marinas, docks, and fishing stations.

A **Free** 23" by 34" two-color Fisherman's Map shows the informal place names used by local fishermen that you will not find on most maps. The first 1,000 copies of the Guidebook that are shipped will also include a **Free** copy of the Map of Historic Sites in Southold Town.

The Blue Claw Press, of Greenport and Brooklyn, is publishing the **North Fork and Shelter Island Guidebook** August 25, 1977. Many of the sections are about recreational activity, but the book has year-round utility.

The Guidebook and the items that go with it are available from most East End bookstores for $6. You can **SAVE** on mail orders, since the publisher pays sales tax, shipping, and handling! Send $6 to: The Blue Claw Press, c/o The Suffolk Times, Main Street, Greenport, N.Y. 11944, or to The Blue Claw Press, Box 1332, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11201.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY TUNA CLUB's

★ 17TH ANNUAL ★

• TUNA TOURNAMENT •

★ SEPTEMBER 3, 4, & 5, 1977 (Labor Day Weekend)

ENTRY FEE: $15 per angler. *(Rules, regulations & tournament patches will be mailed upon receipt of the entry fee.)*

PRIZES: 1st, 2nd & 3rd for heaviest tuna caught, and a prize for the heaviest tuna caught on each day of the S.B.T.C. Tuna Tournament.

CAPTAIN'S MEETING: Brooklyn Yacht Club, Knapp St. & Voorhies Avenue, Brooklyn, on Monday August 29th, 1977 at 8 P.M.

WEIGH-IN STATIONS: *Charvin Fishing Station,* Jones Inlet • *Hennings Fishing Sta.,* Debs Inlet • *Kesgal Snug Harbor,* Highlands • *Kings Grant Marina,* Manasquan Inlet • *Mansion Marina,* Staten Island • *Stella Maris Fishing Station,* Rockaway Inlet.

★ ★ ★

Sinker Bouncing

with Matt Ahern

The Complex Eel

Depending on how you feel about it, the next eel you catch can be a gourmet's dream or a fisherman's nightmare. Few fish are as maligned as is the common eel (Anguilla rostrata), and most of it through ignorance of this creature's true worth.

Until five or six decades ago, eels were clothed in a mantle of mystery and not too much was known about them. Throughout the years, many studies have been undertaken, particularly by the U. S. Bureau of Fisheries. While their lives and spawning habits are still far from an open book, they are now more understood. This has resulted in the discovery that the eel is truly a masterpiece of complexity.

While most saltwater fish spend their lives in the sea or adjacent areas, the eel is equally at home in fresh or salt water. The sea being necessary only for spawning, most females spend much of their lives in fresh water.

In early autumn, when the urge to spawn is felt, the females leave freshwater lakes and ponds and wend their way to the sea, mingling with the smaller, waiting males who have spent most of their lives in salt water. These mature females are thought to be about ten years of age, but some authorities believe this may possibly be as high as twenty years.

Spawning takes place in approximately 1000 feet of water southwest of Bermuda, in an area known as the Sargasso Sea. What becomes of the parent eel is not generally known, but it is thought to die.

The young eels—called elvers—arrive off our coast a year later. Elvers look no more like an eel than a caterpillar does a butterfly—being willow-leaf shaped and transparent. It is not surprising that fishermen call them "glass eels." Arriving by millions, many are devoured by other fish as they enter shallow water, but those that escape quickly assume the familiar eel shape.

These young eels make their way into rivers, finding their way into lakes and ponds; these are most always females. Should one body of water be unsuitable, they will wait for a rainy night and slither through the wet grass to reach another more suitable. They will often travel long distances. Here they grow and mature slowly. The rate of growth is not too well-known, but it is thought a seven-and-a-half inch eel is six years of age; a nine-year-old, fifteen-and-a-half inches.

Should eels become landlocked due to dam construction or something similar, they must live out their life span in freshwater, growing larger, but unable to spawn: this is why many lakes contain eels that may reach three and four feet in length. Males usually stay behind in saltwater bays and creeks, rarely exceeding two-and-a-half feet. This accounts for the many "shoestrings" fishermen catch.

Eels are highly destructive, eating spawn of herring, shad, bunkers, and many others. At one time, eels were so abundant in Chesapeake Bay, the State of Maryland felt it necessary to combat this destructive tendency. One-quarter of its fisheries' money was set aside to that end. The plan met with little success, and when it was discovered one mature female may produce several million eggs, it was abandoned.

Since then, many fishermen have shrugged aside their prejudice regarding that snake-like appearance—especially so when the superb eating qualities of the eel was discovered. Commercial fishermen now reap enormous quantities to meet the demand and, by so doing, help keep them under control.

The common eel ranges from the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Panama, and throughout the West Indies. Notice the word "common," because there is another eel fishermen often catch, particularly around sunken offshore wrecks. This is the conger eel, also known as the silver eel (Conger conger). Don't confuse this eel with that large-headed, big-mouthed, thick-lipped monstrosity often caught by codfishermen and erroneously called "conger eel." This nasty-looking individual is really the cusk eel (Rissola marginata).

In European waters, these true congers have been known to reach 128 pounds, with 60 pounders not uncommon. Twenty pounds is about tops on our side of the Atlantic. As with the common eel, only the female grows large, the males generally reaching no more than two-and-a-half feet in length.

Beginning around mid-April, flounder fishermen catch an occasional eel, and this is the sign eel fishermen await. As the eel is nocturnal, eeling is usually better during the dark hours, or on gloomy days. Eels bite well, until the cooler nights of autumn set them to thoughts of hibernation.

Most eels are caught from creek banks, piers, and bulkheads—wherever water deeper than the surrounding area is found. Boat fishermen get eels by fishing the deeper holes and around creek banks with ten to twelve feet of water at high tide. Eels are sometimes caught in shallow water near bars and flats, but they prefer slightly deeper water.

No elaborate tackle is needed; in fact, this is a good way to use that old, discarded tackle you hated to throw away. Eels put up a good scrap. If you have never caught one on a rod, you are in for a pleasant surprise. They get lots of leverage with that long, sinuous body. If the fisherman ties into a good one, he had better have a firm grip on his rod. The common eel is surprisingly powerful and takes off like a shot the instant the hook is felt, resisting all the way.

Rigging is simple. You can use a number ten flounder hook or a number six Sproat. Use just one hook and tie it about

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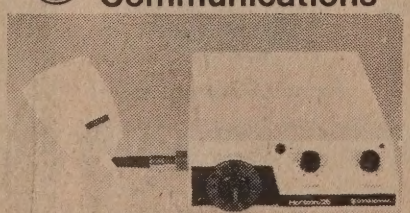

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an inch above the sinker so that it lies on bottom. Eels will swim off bottom at times—as many surprised snapper fishermen know, but it is best to be where they feed.

The selection of bait is no problem: they will take anything of an animal nature, including worms, killies, spearing, and bits of clam. If clam is used, it should be sliced into one-and-a-half inch pieces, with a section of the soft belly attached. The sinker should be heavy enough to hold bottom. Probably no more than two to four ounces will be necessary, as most eels are caught in sheltered waters where currents are slow-moving.

Eels are cunning, agile bait thieves, and they must be struck at once. Don't hesitate for an instant. Many times you will miss completely—no matter how fast you are. Soon, though, you will develop a "feel," or sixth sense, and once you attain this, you'll find very few eels cleaning your hooks.

Eels seem extra-sensitive to vibration. Take advantage of this by bouncing your sinker on bottom about a dozen times, then allow it to remain quiet. If an eel is homing in on your bait, it will grab it the instant it lies still. If there are no takers immediately, just repeat. When the first eel is taken by this method, there will be others milling around, waiting to pounce when the bait descends again. Sometimes this method is the only one which will produce a quantity of fish.

Not only will the eel fight capture while in the water, it can also put up a good tussle when you attempt to remove the hook. For this reason, you should be equipped with a pair of cheap cotton gloves or several dry rags. A little sand worked in will give you a firm grip.

A simple method I use to prevent handling the hooked eel takes a little preparation, but is worth it:

Pre-snell as many loose hooks as you feel are necessary—I usually make up about two dozen. These don't have to be tied with the professional barrel knot, a simple loop with a double-overhand knot will do. You can use 10 pound test leader material or regular monofilament for this, with leader material preferred. Run the loop through the hook eye, then over the hook and pull tight. Make a loop at the opposite end, and then place it and the sinker on a medium-sized sinker snap.

When you bring your eel in, hold it over your fish bucket. With a pair of shears cut the snell, allowing the eel to drop into the container; this works like a charm at night. There is no mess or fuss, and you get your hook back when cleaning the eel. Just put on a fresh hook and you're in business again.

There are many ways to catch eels.

On windless nights, many boat fishermen spear eels in shallow water with the aid of a light. They pole along slowly, watching for eels to appear in the circle of reflected light, then deftly spear them. It isn't necessary to throw the spear—this usually results in a clean miss. Just line the eel up with the spear and push forward firmly. Once the knack is attained, eel after eel will come aboard.

For sheer, exhilarating sport, nothing offers as much fun as bobbing for eels. This used to be a popular pastime years ago, and some fishermen still practice it.

To make a bob, you will need a supply of night crawlers, or several dozen blood or sandworms. Using a heavy needle, run a four-foot piece of heavy sewing thread lengthways through the woms, pushing them one in front of the other, down to the knotted end. When the thread is full, gather it into some semblance of a ball, then wrap securely with yarn from an old wool sweater: the more yarn, the better.

Attach this and a four ounce sinker to your line. The rod should be stiff, with very little "give," and should be six to eight feet long. You can also use a heavy stick. The line should be the same length as the rod.

Lower this off a creek bank or boat, in six to eight feet of water, making certain it is on bottom. If there are any eels about, they'll soon be tugging at the bob, whereupon you quickly lift them in with one motion and shake them into your container.

What actually happens is that the small teeth of the eels become enmeshed in the wool yarn and they can't let go. This type of eeling is guaranteed to provide plenty of excitement—and eels.

Eels have a tough hide and should be skinned. Some fishermen find it difficult to do, and some breeze through a basket of eels in short order. It just takes time and patience

(Continued on page 10.)

Why your line should glow when you're fishing for stripers.

The better you see your line, the better you can control it. That's a big help when you're trying to bring your cast down in the midst of a school of feeding stripers. In heavy surf, you can keep track of your plug by keeping sight of your line. On a boat, whether you're trolling, drifting or in the middle of fighting a good fish, being able to see your line is your best insurance against getting tangled in other lines.

That's why Du Pont invented the line that glows.

To give you better control, Du Pont invented *Stren*® fluorescent monofilament. The patented glow of *Stren* is actually in the line. It's activated by the sun's ultraviolet rays. From dawn to dusk. Even on cloudy days. Underwater, where UV is filtered out, the glow is deactivated.

You need a choice of colors.

Stren comes in different colors to suit different fishing conditions. Clear/Blue glows a soft blue; fine for most fishing against dark water and foliage. Golden *Stren* has even greater visibility for bright days or cluttered backgrounds. And high contrast Orange really "pops," even against the glare of big water and bright skies.

There's more to Stren than meets the eye.

Du Pont research has given *Stren* the right balance of properties you need. Superior knot strength—frequently up to 100% as strong as unknotted line. Great tensile strength with small diameter. Proper limpness for easier handling and casting. Tough abrasion and shock resistance. And controlled stretch to set your hook fast.

Try a spool of *Stren*. You can see it, you can control it. And control catches more fish than luck.

The line you see is the line you control.

Surf Side with John Fritz

SEPTEMBER SURF PROSPECTS

Those of us who spend a great deal of time in the great outdoors do not require a calendar to inform us that the end of summer is drawing near. The sun's rays during these diminishing days provide enough heat for the beach set, but the nights are taking on a distinct chill. While this is a pleasant relief after the heat of the summer months, it now becomes uncomfortable at night without the protection of added clothing. Soon the northwest wind will predominate, and while they're not the icy blasts of winter, they will foretell things to come.

The changing seasons we feel on the land is also sensed by the creatures that dwell beneath the waters. Slowly at first, but accelerating as the month progresses, the schools of game fish prepare for the journey to their wintering grounds. They feed gluttonously on hordes of migrating baitfish.

During the month of September, more attention should be placed on the South Shore inlets. As this bait starts leaving the faster-cooling waters of the bays, the predators lie in wait along the inlet mouths as their prey is flushed to them by the ebbing tide. Most notable of these conditions can occur after a northeast blow, when the mullet evacuate their summer haunts and slowly work west along the ocean beaches.

The techniques which you found productive through the summer will carry on through the first part of September, but towards the middle of the month those of you who prefer fishing the daylight hours will be able to get a piece of the action.

While the smaller Rebels and Red-Fins continue to produce fish at night in the backside areas, the presence of schools of larger baitfish allows one to be more versatile in his selection of lures: Darters, Atoms and the Lupo swimmers are more likely to imitate the larger prey.

While the inside waters continue to produce weaks and bass, the ocean front beaches will start producing stripers during the day for those using poppers and tin. The Point Lookout jetties, West End II, Tobay-Gilgo and the Cedar Beach area, have spurts of action around mid-month. Work the beaches on the falling tide, concentrating on cuts found in the bars running parallel to the shoreline. The Cedar Bar is an excellent location to spend some time if it is allowed to build up again. This area has unfailingly seen periods of good fishing around the 15th. Persistence is required with cloudy, windy days giving you a better chance.

The Sore Thumb produces giant weakfish at this time. The most fruitful method is to fish bottom using live snapper or cut mackerel for bait. The snappers are usually plentiful in the eastern cove and readily carried to the outside face, where the weakfish lie in the swirling water of the outgoing tide.

Bucktails and small swimming plugs take weaks and schoolie bass if worked in close to the rocks at dawn and dusk, while larger bass can be encountered in the rips when drifting live eels weighted with a drail.

Live eels should produce big bass along the sandy beaches, with sandworms continuing to take smaller bass in the pockets at Atlantic Beach. Bunker and mackerel fillets are a good substitute bait readily taken by bass, blues, and weaks.

This is the time of year for water-watching as you view the schools of game fish feasting on the pods of bait, accompanied by their canopy of screaming birds. Many times this takes place too far off the beach to do any good, but this activity keeps the hope alive that somewhere down the line they will hit the beach.

On any of these early September mornings when using tin, your line can suddenly depart for France. It is not that 50 you've been waiting for, so don't panic. Rather, you have most likely found a school of bonito or albacore making a pass along the beach. Just hold on, for you are in for an exciting fight.

Cedar, Democrat, Shinnecock, and the Hither Hills area of Montauk often see bluefish schools within casting distance at dawn during the latter part of the month; while further east, small bass can be taken from Scott's early in September on Rebels and Red-Fins, with larger fish taken under the Light at night on Darters and bottle plugs.

Start working North Bar and Jones Reef at dusk on the falling tide with your Darters and bottles, but if the weather is cloudy with a good northeast blow, by all means work this tide during the day with poppers. Keep a watch for birds working towards Shagwong, for as the tide recedes, the fish are likely to take up residence in the rip at north Bar.

The sandy beaches from Ditch Plains west, can be fished with live eels while waiting for surface activity to take place. The rocky areas under the bluffs to the east also produce fish now, with poppers being used in the day and seven inch Rebels and Red-Fins being employed at other times.

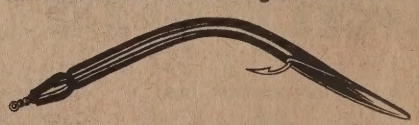
The fishing scene on the Sound is colored mostly "blue," with some stripes as September opens. The bass make their presence known in greater quantities as October draws near. (I hope anyway.)

Bluefish can still be found in the harbors under the bunker, while dawn action can occur on any day, at any place along the open beach. Keep a watchful eye on any area holding a concentration of snappers, for bluefish will readily dine on their smaller kin. As the month progresses the bunker will leave the bays and provide good fishing at the harbor mouths for the few days that the exodus is in progress.

Striped bass, although still taken while plugging among the rocks or patiently swimming live eels or dead bunker at night, become more active daytime feeders as the seasonal storms cool the water temperature. If one can ignore the hot rumors emanating from the South Shore, good bass fishing can be had in your back yard—if a little perseverance is used.

Watching the schools of working fish off the beach is similar to the South Shore scene; following them is another matter. In the south, they can often be chased with a buggy; but the geography and economics hinder this practice for the most part in the north.

If the prospects for September seem vague, it is not because it's a dead month, or that the fish are only in secret locations. On the contrary, this is the month when good fishing can be had along any stretch of beach. Perseverance plus a little foresight can give you memories to carry you through the coming winter. This is especially true if you dislike the punishment often associated with next month's colder nights and wintry storms. The weather is still pleasant and the crowds of summer are gone. Most of the beach restrictions are loosened after Labor Day, so access to previously denied areas is available. Spend as much time as possible at the waterfront because this is the start of the long-awaited fall run.



Sinker Bouncing: COMPLEX EEL

(Continued from page 9.)

until you get the knack.

All you need in the way of skinning tools is a sharp knife and some rags or newspaper. Some fishermen find pliers useful. Grasp the eel by the head with a piece of the rag or newspaper and make a cut on the underside, just forward of the pectoral fins. Run the knife to the vent and remove the intestines. Be sure to complete this cut, otherwise the skin will tear. Continue your first cut around the body—not too deeply, for all you need to do is slice through the skin.

With the blade of the knife, pull the skin away from the flesh gradually, until you have enough started to give a good grip with the pliers or rag. Then, holding the head, peel off the rest with a continuous, steady pull.

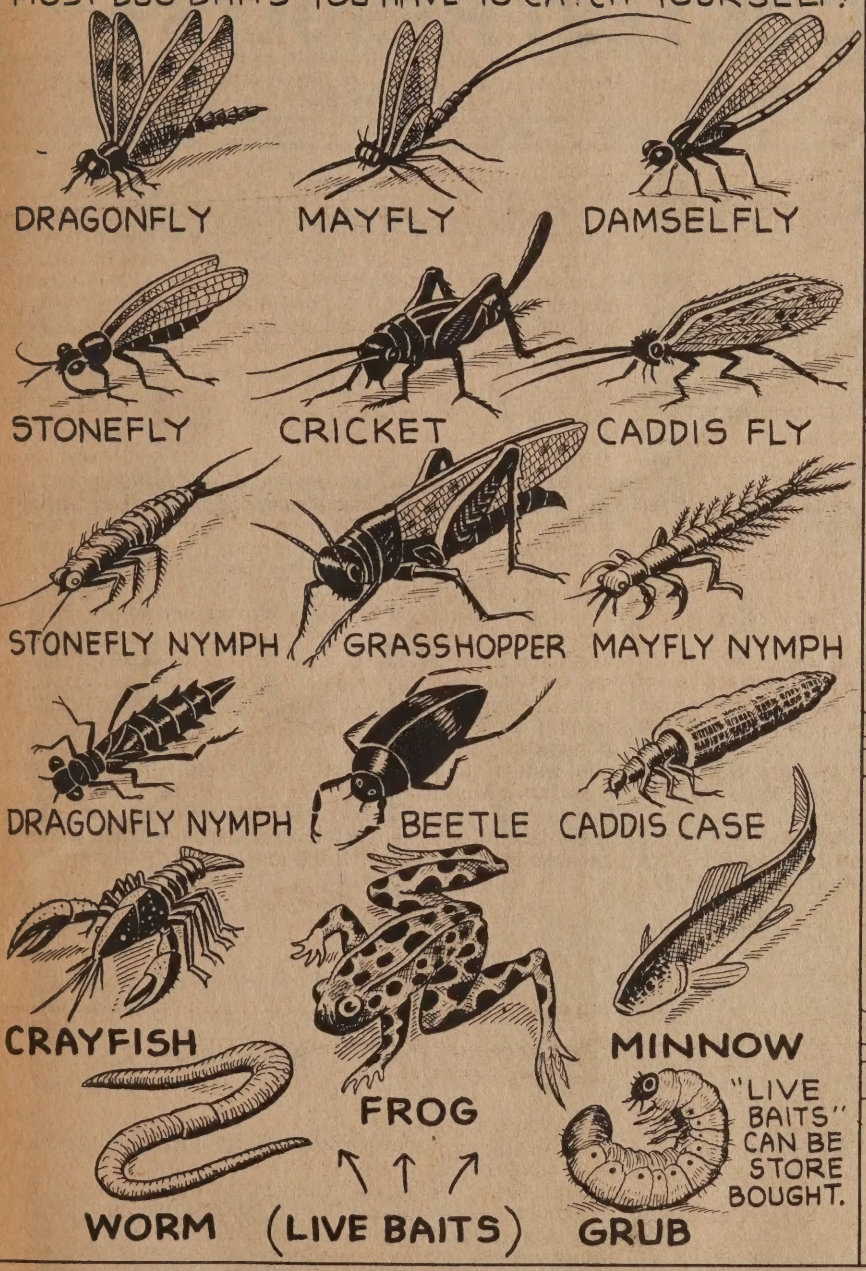
When fishermen discuss delicious sea food, the eel is always mentioned. Their sweet meat has no peer. In preparation, most fishermen cut them into three or four inch sections, dip them in cracker meal and pan fry to a golden brown. When done this way, they are truly a gourmet's delight.

If you have an aversion to the eel because of its appearance, forget it and go eeling. You'll have a good time—guaranteed!

THE BUGS OF SUMMER

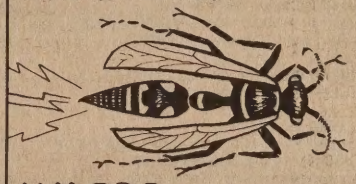
BY FRED GUARDINEER

FAVORITE BAITS FOR FRESHWATER FISHING
INCLUDING SUMMERTIME BUGS AND VARIOUS LIVE BAITS. MOST BUG BAITS YOU HAVE TO CATCH YOURSELF!



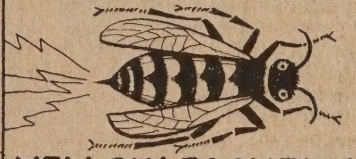
BOTHERSOME BEES. THEIR STINGS CAN BE MORE DEADLY THAN SNAKE BITES!

HONEY BEES HAVE HAIRY BODIES, BLACK AND YELLOW MARKINGS. THEY NEST IN THE GROUND IN COLONIES NEAR FIELDS AND LAWNS.



WASPS - VERY NARROW WAIST - ARE BLACK WITH WHITE, YELLOW OR RED. NESTS ARE OPEN CONES IN SHELTERED PLACES.

HORNETS — SHORT WAIST, BLACK WITH YELLOW OR WHITE MARKINGS. BUILD OVAL GRAY NESTS ABOVE GROUND IN THICK BRUSH.



YELLOW JACKETS RESEMBLE HORNETS EXCEPT FOR THE EYES. NEST IN ROCKS AND OLD WALLS.

THE GRASSHOPPER IS ONE OF THE BEST BAITS OF THE BUNCH AND CAN BE HOOKED IN SEVERAL WAYS AND WORKS FOR ME ON ADIRONDACK BASS AND JACK PERCH WHEN IMPALED ON THE HOOK LIKE A COUPLE OF SHRIMP. CAST LIGHTLY WITH LIGHT LINE, SPLIT SHOT, SINKER & FLOAT.

The FISHERMAN CLUB SALTWATER FISHING CONTEST

★ JULY CONTEST RESULTS ★

CLUB NAME	★SURF★ BASS	BLUES	WEAKS	★BOAT★ BASS	BLUES	WEAKS	July Pts.	Total Pts.
★MASSACHUSETTS★								
CAPE COD SALTIES	334			337	111		782	2447
PIONEER VALLEY BOAT & SURF CLUB	40			443	137	15	635	1521
LINESIDER BASS CLUB				173	85		258	929
★RHODE ISLAND★								
WOONSOCKET STRIPER CLUB	918	270	82	368	130	20	1788	3604
THE JONAH'S	292	246		398	137	25	1098	2855
OCEAN STATE STRIPER CLUB	519	240		36	107		902	2003
SOUTH COUNTY ROD & GUN	36			384	157	70	647	1296
NARRAGANSETT PIER SPORTFISHING				157	138	63	358	1195
VFW POST 5392 FISHING CLUB	54		10	243	54		361	1061
EAST BAY ANGLERS				223	136		359	1030
RIVERSIDE SPORTFISHING CLUB	120	66		93	162	9	450	867
BLACKSTONE VALLEY STRIPER CLUB				220	16	17	253	253
★CONNECTICUT★								
CONNECTICUT RIVER STRIPED BASS CLUB	36			447	138	76	697	1535
HARTFORD SURF FISHING CLUB		94	18	45	129		286	1296
WESTPORT STRIPED BASS CLUB				75	15	68	158	826
MILFORD STRIPED BASS CLUB	68	42		34			144	655
DUNHAM SALTIES								102
STRATFORD BOAT OWNERS								42
★NEW YORK★								
LONG BEACH STRIPED BASS CLUB	712	24		445	108	54	1343	3266
STRIPER SURF CLUB	739	255	146				1140	2799
LONG ISLAND STRIPER CLUB	790	202	44		64	15	1115	2517
EMPIRE STRIPER ASSOCIATION	570	12		318	120	44	1064	2496
HUNTINGTON ANGLERS	104	44	142	398	102	60	850	2326
KINGS BAY STRIPER CLUB			96	256	121	89	562	2033
PATCHOGUE FISHING CLUB	190	38	100		39	33	400	1440
NORTH SHORE ANGLERS				403	139		542	1306
BEACH COMBER SURF & FUN CLUB		212					212	1133
STATEN ISLAND SURF CLUB		104			114	5	223	933
FARRAGUT STRIPER CLUB	72	38	126		11		247	849
EASTERN ANGLERS				74	133		207	756
CAUSEWAY FISHING CLUB			10	60	66		136	746
BABYLON TUNA CLUB				76			76	645
SOUND & SURF FISHING CLUB	32		122		100	93	347	640
MANHASSETT BAY SPORTSMENS CLUB				79	144	6	229	576
SKUNKED AGAIN FISHING ASSN	40			25	126	52	243	571
SURFERS OF LONG ISLAND				50			50	452
BAY END STRIPER CLUB				18	117	51	186	448
HAMPTON'S SURF CLUB	48			27	37		112	444
GREAT SOUTH BAY ANGLERS								344
MILL RIVER ROD & GUN CLUB				116		6	122	335
BAYVIEW ROD & GUN CLUB				62	66		128	248
CENTER ANGLERS								236
NEW ANGLERS				84	13		97	179
FISHING BUGS OF BROOKLYN			17	45	22		84	152
SURF & SEA ANGLERS				72			72	95
FREEPORT TUNA CLUB								21
★PENNSYLVANIA★								
DELAWARE VALLEY SURF ANGLERS								103
N. PHILA. SURF FISHING CLUB								22
★NEW JERSEY★								
ASBURY PARK FISHING CLUB	692	26	78		148	79	1021	2560
BERKELEY STRIPER CLUB					111		111	1575
LONG BRANCH FISHING CLUB	254		80		116	81	531	989
BRUNSWICK SURF CLUB	70		14				84	450
HUDSON RIVER FISHEREN'S ASSOC					53	70	123	402
NOR'EAST STRIPER CLUB								256
COLUMBIA					53		53	105
L.B.I. SURF ANGLERS ASSN								20

The Top Ten

CLUB NAME	STATE	TOTAL PTS.
1. WOONSOCKET STRIPER CLUB	RHODE ISLAND	3604
2. LONG BEACH STRIPED BASS CLUB	NEW YORK	3266
3. THE JONAH'S	RHODE ISLAND	2855
4. STRIPER SURF CLUB	NEW YORK	2799
5. ASBURY PARK FISHING CLUB	NEW JERSEY	2560
6. LONG ISLAND STRIPER CLUB	NEW YORK	2517
7. EMPIRE STRIPER ASSN	NEW YORK	2496
8. CAPE COD SALTIES	MASSACHUSETTS	2447
9. HUNTINGTON ANGLERS	NEW YORK	2326
10. KINGS BAY STRIPER CLUB	NEW YORK	2033

★★★★★★★★★★

HOW-TO SPECIAL FEATURE

★★★★★★★★★★

ROD RACKS

In this corner:
ROBERT HUNT
Member of Babylon Tuna Club

Store-bought rod racks are expensive. What most anglers want is a place to store their rods easily, where they will be protected and out of the way. This project uses inexpensive materials and can be made with basic tools. The best feature of this rack is the simple L-hook method of holding the individual rods in place. There is no twisting, unhooking or pulling needed to remove a rod, and as long as there is gravity, your rod can't be jarred loose.

Materials:

1'' x 4'' Pine, 3/4'' thick - length as needed.

1½'' No. 6 wood screws

2½'' No. 6 wood screws

2½'' x 3/4'', 1/8 diam. L-hooks **or** 1/8 diam. brazing rod bent to L-shape.

Holder:

1. Cut 1 x 4 pine to length needed.
2. Layout for holes 1-3/4'' from front edge and 4'' to center (for large outfits make this 6''.
3. Drill 3/4'' holes.
4. with a tri-square against front edge, draw a line from the outside edge of the holes to the front edge.
5. Cut on this line with a saw to form slot.
6. With a power saw (table or radial) cut a 3/8'' dado slot 1'' from front edge. (You can also use a router with 1/8 veining bit or a skillsaw with a board clamped down as a fence.)
7. Sand all edges.

Optional

8. Finish front and side edges with a router and ogee bit.

Back Piece:

1. Cut 1 x 4 pine to length needed.
2. Sand all edges.

Optional:

3. Finish all edges with a router and ogee bit.

Assembly:

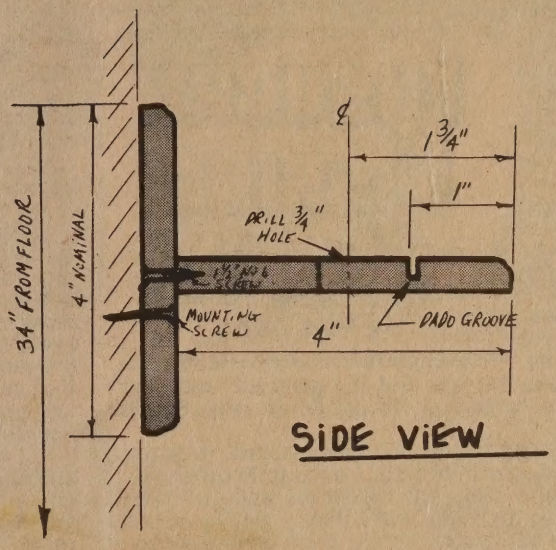
1. Join holder to back piece using 1½'' No. 6 wood screws 8'' on center.
2. Stain all parts.
3. Apply 2 coats of clear shellac to seal wood (steel wool after each coat until dull)
4. Apply 2 coats of Polyurethane Varnish (dull with steel wool after first coat)

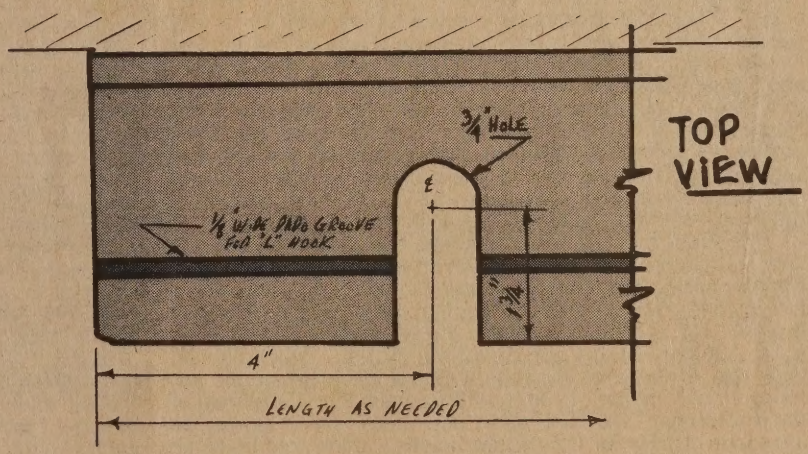
Lock Pins:

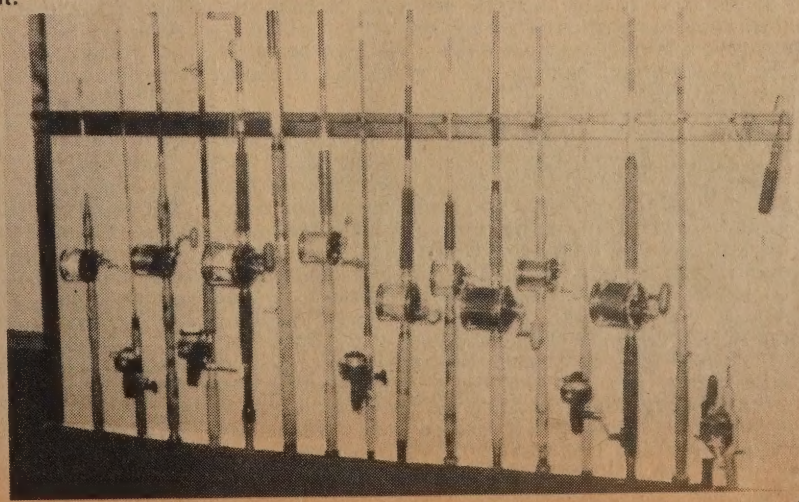
1. Cut threads off L-hooks.
2. Grind or file cut edge.
3. Pins should slide easily in slot; paste wax will help.

Mounting:

1. Mount Rod Rack 34'' from floor.
2. Use 2½'' No. 6 screws into studs, place screws below holder piece so they won't be seen.







Inshore Fishing

with Scott J. Simons

Montauk Blues

★ *Part Two* ★

In part one of this article two issues ago, we talked about bluefishing with diamond jigs at the Submarine Buoy and Cartwright. This week we'll wind things up with more on Cartwright, particularly the hot fishing method used to take bluefish in the area—whole herring fished near the bottom with a tandem hook rigged with a chain to a drail. But first, a few more words on diamond jigging in the area. I must say that many were the times in the past few years that the Cartwright blues have driven me crazy with their inconsistent feeding habits! Thick as the schools of twelve to twenty-plus pound fish are in the area, there ARE times that they simply refuse to hit a diamond jig. I found it to be almost impossible to predict when they would and when they wouldn't, and after making the trip out to Cartwright a few times only to watch other anglers bailing blues while I went fishless with the jigs, I learned my lesson and started carrying a flat of herring with me. Last fall, I had it down to a science—every trip I had a flat of herring with me, the blues **would** take the jigs. But if I gambled, and didn't bring bait, they'd only laugh at the jig! So who says bluefish are stupid?

On those occasions that the fish were reluctant to take the standard, silver-plated diamond jig, I did a little experimenting with colored jigs. Paint didn't work too well as it didn't really take to coating the metal, but I think I may have found the solution in heat shrinkable tubing, which is used for color coding and harnessing wires in electronic equipment. A colored piece of tubing the length of the jig is cut and sleeved over it. Then heat is applied and the tubing shrinks to fifty percent of its original size, taking the shape of the jig and forming a tight, plastic coating. I'll write more on this product and its applications later in the season, but if you are interested, call Schaal Assoc., 631 Old Willets Path, Hauppauge, N.Y. 11787 and ask them to send you their catalog, or call (516) 234-4600. The photos on the opposite page will give you an idea of the possible applications. I've also found that a small surge tube attached to the jig instead of the plain hook also produces fish at times.

And now for the herring fishing. The first thing you will need is a couple of flats of bait, which are available at most of the marinas at Montauk: The Star Island Yacht Club, Cove Marina and the Gone Fishing Marina. Depending on where it is purchased, the herring will run you between $7.50 and $8.25 a flat, which contains approximately 30 fish, depending on their size. Figure that you should have a minimum of one flat for every two anglers. I spoke with Captain John Sweetman of the charterboat EBB TIDE about how much bait he carries for a six-man charter for Cartwright bluefish. John said he takes four flats, but at times he will supplement this with fish caught off the bottom, such as small porgies, sea bass, bergalls, etc. Flats of small bunker and butterfish will also work in a bind, or you can even use large snappers and tinker mackerel caught in the harbor beore leaving the dock. The only key to it all seems to be that the bait is large.

The tandem-hook drail rig used for this type of fishing was originally developed for bluefishing in the Race by open boat captains like Captain Brad Glas of the HELEN II and Captain George Glas of the HEL-CAT. The private boats that had difficulty locating the Cartwright Grounds on their own loved Brad and his bright red party boat which served as a giant marker buoy—just find the Helen II and you found Cartwright ... and the bluefish! Unfortunately for Cartwright anglers, George Glas retired last winter and Brad took over the helm of the Hel-Cat, which sails out of Groton, Connecticut, and does most of its bluefishing in the Race. The Helen II has been sold, so anglers will have to learn how to find Cartwright on their own now. Roughly (due to wind and current conditions prevailing at any given time) Cartwright is found by running a course of 175 degrees from the Montauk Lighthouse. Cartwright is actually a series of high pieces of bottom, rather than one formation and there are actually two separate and distinct areas: Inner and Outer Cartwright Grounds. Running from the Lighthouse, you will pass over a long stretch of bottom that is a uniform 90 feet in depth. The first series of rises where the depth comes up to 60, 65, 70, or 75 feet, is known as Inner Cartwright. Try several pieces until you mark bluefish on the recorder. If you don't find fish at Inner Cartwright (which is often the case), continue on the same 175 degree heading. The water will drop back to depths of 90 feet and more for a while, then you will come across a second series of rises, or ridges of high ground. This is Outer Cartwright. Cruise around with an eye on the recorder: check the top of the high ground and the slopes where the depth changes until you locate the bluefish and then anchor up.

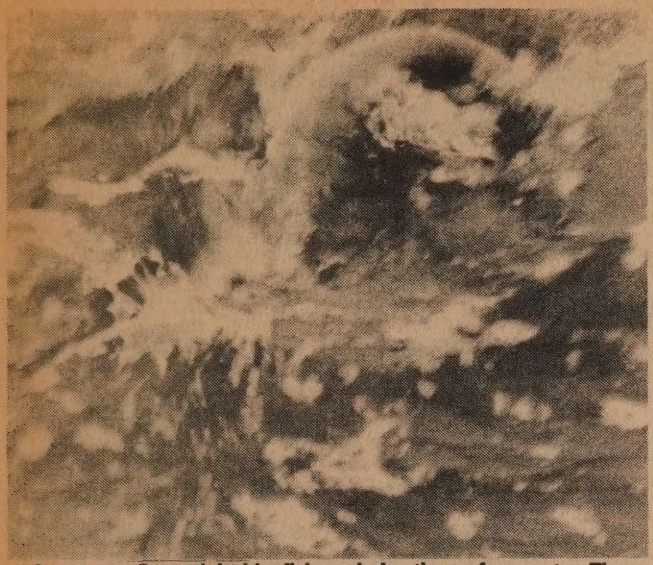
There are two important rules to obey at Cartwright so that you don't interfere with the fishing of other boats around you. First, DON'T anchor up right next to another boat that is catching fish. The schools of blues are moving around, so it isn't necessary to throw your bait under the other guy's boat to catch fish—anchor up a respectable distance away and be patient: the blues will find you soon enough. The second rule is NEVER put down a chum pot—which is difficult to get some south shore anglers to understand. The purpose of chum is to gather fish up from a wide area so that they concentrate around your boat; but at Cartwright you are structure fishing, and the bluefish have already gathered themselves up around a bottom formation without any help, thank you. Using chum in such a situation actually has the reverse of the desired effect and just confuses them—eventually dispersing the school. But if chumming is your bag and you insist on doing it, there are a few spots to try it. When you reach Cartwright, run a course due west ... for about 50 or 60 miles.

There are many versions of the drail rig available for sale at Montauk, and all work. The only rig that has any reel difference is the Sekora Montauk Rig, which has the first hook molded into the drail and the eyelet at the top of the drail. This set-up keeps the bait straight in the water and prevents it from spinning unnaturally, which may be a factor in your success when the fish are off their feed. The photo on the opposite page shows some of these variations, including a homemade job that uses an eight-ounce Ava-87 diamond jig in place of the drail. I made up a mess of these rigs because I had a good supply of eight-ounce jigs on hand, and found that they worked well. If you want something heavier, Ron Onorato gave good directions on how to make the rigs with 10 and 12 ounce drails in his article **Alligators at Cartwright**, L.I.F. Issue No. 26, July 14, 1976. It's a good idea to make up the rigs with a twelve-inch wire leader, attaching the rig to the main line with a heavy black snap swivel. This way when a big blue is hooked deep with both hooks, you can just unsnap the whole rig and leave it in the fish's mouth, getting it out at the end of the trip, or when the bluefish has calmed down a little. BE CAREFUL WHEN UNHOOKING FISH! These gorillas can crunch through bone and cartilage with no problem, and there is also the danger that they will start flopping around on the deck, which often leaves the second hook of the rig swinging around wildly just dying to dig into someone's leg or hand. I strongly recommend beating the fish silly with a billy club before trying to remove the rig.

After you have anchored up over a school of fish or a good bottom formation, just free spool the baited rig to the bottom. After you hit it, make four or five turns of the reel handle to get the bait off the bottom. If you don't get a bite, periodically raise the bait with a few more turns until you locate the level at which they are feeding. (Ninety percent of the time this will be in the bottom third of the water column, so don't fish the rig more than 10 or 12 turns off the bottom.) The rig is fished dead—you might as well be a rod holder. When you get a hit—which is usually ferocious—strike back HARD three or four times immediately to set the hook. If you start missing a lot of fish using this method, try fishing with a free spool and thumb pressure, and then allow the fish to run a little and/or play with the bait. One other thought: make sure you have a couple of good gaffs on hand—there just ain't no way you're going to swing these monsters into the boat.

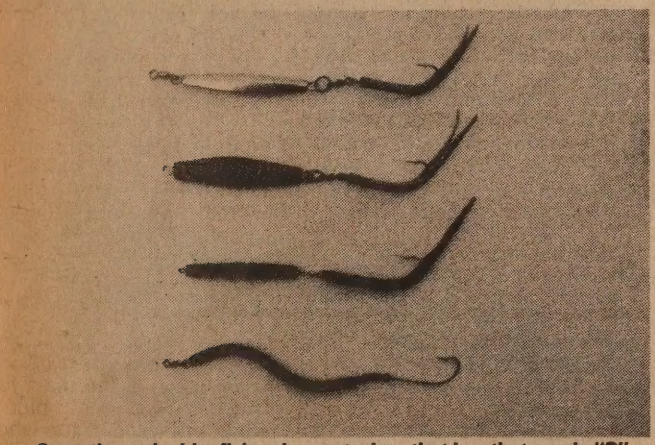
As this article was being written, I received a call from Captain John Sweetman of the Montauk charterboat EBB TIDE letting me know that the bluefish had arrived at Outer Cartwright. By the time this article is read, I'm sure there will be a fleet of boats anchored up in the area fishing with whole herring. Don't be left out! If you don't have your own boat,

(Continued on page 41.)

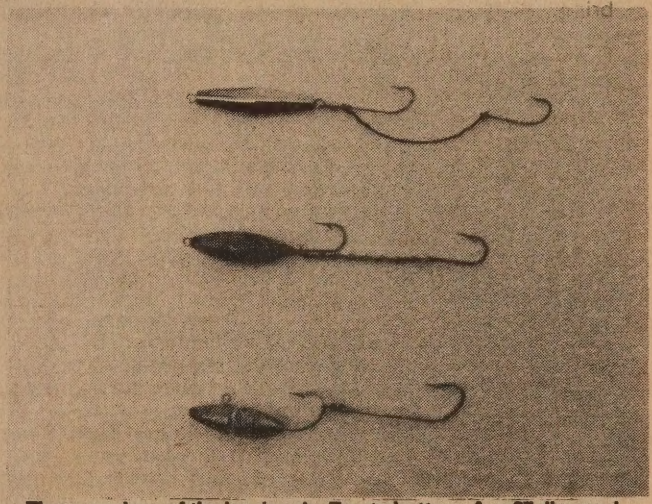


A monster Cartwright bluefish explodes the surface water. The blues taken in the area on diamond jigs and on herring rigs, ranging in size from 12 to 20 lbs. with a fish less than ten pounds considered to be an oddity.

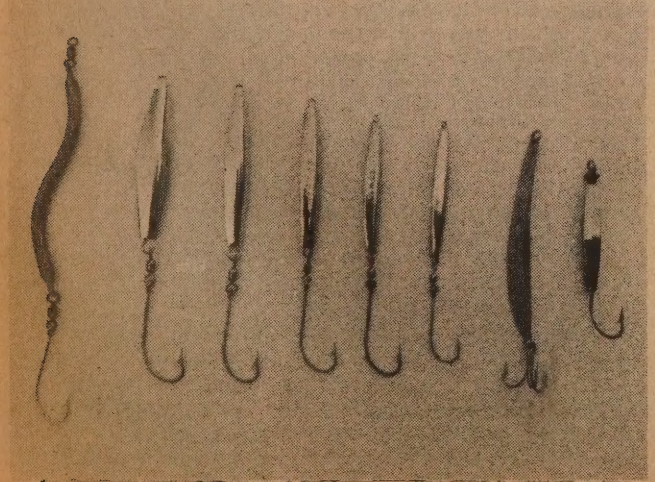
A whole herring rigged on the special drail rig. The top hook goes through the lips or the eyes and the bottom hook is placed in the body near the tail. A 12 inch wire leader is highly recommended.



Sometimes the bluefish only want a lure that has that magic "S" action in the water. Above, from top to bottom: Ava-87 diamond jig with red surge tube attached with a split-ring; Ava-87 sleeved with black heat-shrinkable tubing and a red surge-tube; S&G Tackle commercial version; Capt. John DeMaio's newly developed tube-jig sleeved in black heat shrinkable tubing, which will be available commercially from Ava Tackle in the spring.



Three versions of the herring rig. Top to bottom: Ava-87 diamond jig converted by attaching a second hook to the eye of the first with wire; standard drail rig with chain; the new Sekora herring rig that prevents the herring from spinning to and from the bottom.



An assortment of Ava and Bridgeport diamond jigs and John DeMaio's new tube-jig, all of which are deadly at Cartwright.

Captain Brad Glas, now at the helm of the Hel-Cat, gaffs a 15-lb. class Cartwright bluefish for one of his customers last September at Outer Cartwright on the old Helen II.

GAFFS: The Indispensable Hook

by Dick Mermon

★CONCLUSION★

Hook curvature is just as important a factor in gaffs as it is with regular fishing hooks. There are three bending styles—straight, curved, and angled. Manner of operation and size of species determine which mode is best. A straight upturned hook is made for lifting, of quick penetration of an upwards sweep. The point and shank are almost parallel to one another and gap opening is determined by species of fish it is employed on. Most often, short-handled gaffs have small gap openings and straight bends, because of its holding requirements on a fish.

Deformed styling on a shank of a hook occurs mostly in long-handled gaffs, where the point is brought up even to the shank's angle. A fisherman usually has to reach outward slightly in sinking its point into a fish. Pressure is applied upwards, parallel to the point's bend. These hooks are generally wider in gap than smaller ones. They are exercised on larger fish, imbedding instantly upon the strike. A very narrow breach between the point and shank, as in short-handled gaffs, will tear from a struggling fish; whereas these wider bends clutch a fish tighter when impaled.

Angled, or straight hooks are called "pick" gaffs. These long, straight-pointed implements of steel are designed for snatching fish while a boat is moving, or in commercial use, to move a fish from one location to another with one swift sweep. This type of hook has a straight business end, then bends to a 45 degree angle at the handle. It is swung rapidly, striking and swinging a fish from the water into a boat by leverage of movement instead of lifting aloft. They are not as common as regular hooks, and it takes a little bit of practice in handling to become proficient with one. Many charter boat captains and mates use a pick gaff at Montauk, N.Y., and thus it has received its name "Montauk Gaff." A boat slows down enough to bring the fish alongside and skittered on the surface, then the pick gaff is swung, sticking and lifting all in one operation.

Flying gaffs have come into their own, more so since shark fishing fever has hit the sportfishing public. They were slightly obscured from view except for only a few active fishermen and big game charter captains. Why they call them "flying" is beyond me, for an angler still has to place motion into the hook's upward swing. I believe the name "quick release gaff" would have been appropriate. Such a type of gaff is one that has a line connected to the hook itself, but detaches entirely from the handle automatically upon insertion into a fish, providing the gaff handler lets go of the rope. The rope, previously attached by its opposite end, prevents the fish from swimming off with the impaled hook.

Changing times did bring a slight modification in the flying gaff also. The hook size came in three bend openings: four, six and eight inches. Two others are now rated—five and nine inches. Usually the smaller was a simple release hook without an end barb. Modern gaffs all sport a barb end no matter which size is available.

In the beginning, the angle of the hook's curve was fashioned for out-stretched imbedding into a fish. While the shank was straight with the extension handle, its point was bent slightly outwards, away from the shank. For some reason, it was used in the southern part of the saltwater fishing world only. An oversized, agitated fish, impaled on this type hook may be able to straighten it enough to free itself. A newer concept in curvature and gap opening of a hook prevents outward leverage on the point and inner bend.

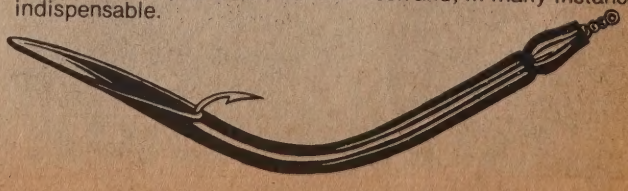
Old style hook disengagement was automatic upon impact; whereas the newer system is lever-released from the handle's lower portion. In this way, large fish can be held by the handle until they become unmanageable, then the lever is pressed, unbinding the hook, supporting the fish by its rope. There is no need for holding both rope and handle at the same time in this instance, since the rope's end is already fastened to something solid on the boat.

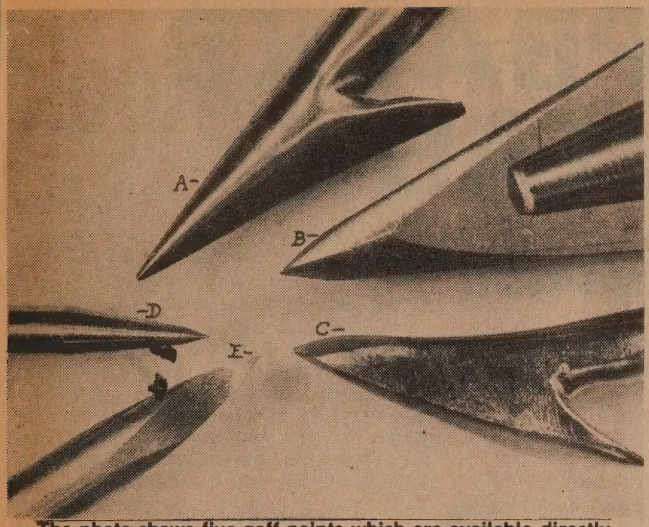
A question always seems to arise about flying gaff points and their penetration. Which point outclasses the next: sharp tip with wide blunt barb, knife-like edge and one notched barb; arrowhead style, removable point, or welded notch? All these work well to a point, and the point is the thing. The new arrowhead design is fashioned for quick penetration. Its essential slicing edges are near the tip region. Many sharks have tough skin when it comes to applying the flying gaff. If the tip is not sharp or knife-like, it will not insert itself deeply into the fish. A gaff must strike home in the first thrust or the shark will take off, roll or thrash clear of the hook. Removable barb heads have recently come into play on flying gaffs and are well suited for the job designed. They are easily sharpened or replaced; where the welded barbs, if they have to be honed, are slightly difficult. If one of these should break while in operation, they cannot be instantly replaced, as in removable heads. Point of all gaffs, other than flying, are machined to a pencil point. This is the easiest way a manufacturer can supply the fishing public. Triangular-formed gaff points are hand ground in this fashion. They will slide under scales, whereas a needle point sometimes pricks a scale and never pierces the flesh. That scale on the hook point has been the culprit of many lost fish.

Almost all modern flying gaff handles are made from .058 wall thickness and one-and-a-half inch O. D. saltwater resistant aluminum. This is a standard width for strength and should be checked out before purchasing a new handle. Solid rod diameter of the hook should be observed along with its connection. A heavy brass attaching retainer head and its metal lock prevents a break off of the hook at time of impalement. This metal piece adds a slightly more forward weight on the flying gaff where it is needed. A heavy sledgehammer delivers more impact and shock than a lighter one; and so it goes with a flying gaff. Heft is required at the time of collision to drive a hook home.

There is one additional feature that should be considered about gaffs—especially flying gaffs. Standard eight foot length sometimes are not long enough for properly sticking a fish. A handle that can be quickly extended to reach further than its original reach, could help. Rapid drifting sometimes proves difficult in bringing a fish alongside the boat. An extension handle of two feet would make the difference at this time.

All these little things are quite important and should be taken into consideration about gaffs. The fishhook is a fundamental implement in catching fish, but a gaff hook is an essential tool which can put a finishing touch on any job. They are as necessary as a common fishhook and, in many instances indispensable.





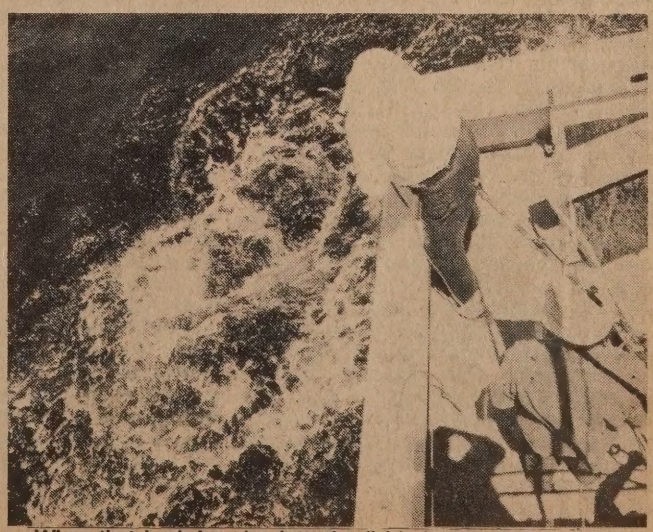
The photo shows five gaff points which are available directly from a dealer, who in turn has received them from the manufacturer. A—is a round point with a knife edge on one side of the barb; B—is a removable arrowhead, sharpened similarly to an arrow with cutting edges on both sides; C—is a blunt point, flat on top with a slight edge on one side and a hooked barb; D—is a machine-ground, round pointed taper; E—is a four-sided, flat ground point.

Surf fishermen require a short handled gaff because of the location in which they fish. Water is constantly covering their hips, and a long handled gaff would be cumbersome.

Wooden handles such as this one of soft fiber, will break under strain. Its windings of steel wire shows rust and can also become a hazard.

Surf gaffs and easy release gaffs that can be broken down for storage or travel. Flexible extension cord assures safe attachment and reliability.

A good gaff handler can manipulate a straight hook on a normal size shark with the attached rope directly in line with the point.



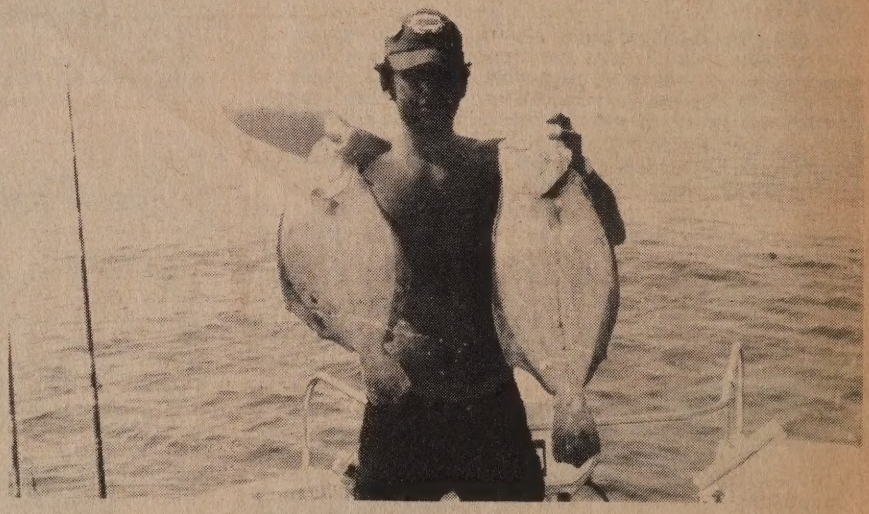
When that hook impales into the fish's body, anything can happen and it usually does. This is the critical period of the release hook and its handler.

THE HUMPBACKS OF MONTAUK

by Ron Onorato

PART THREE—*DOORMAT FLUKE*

The last member of this group is the fluke. Unlike the porgies or sea bass, the fluke really don't get humpbacks no matter how large they get. But by virtue of the fact that some of the biggest fluke are caught right along with the porgies and sea bass, they are included with them. Last year, there were fewer really big doormats at Montauk than in the previous few years; but for anglers in the know-how, there were some big fish taken. Most of the really big fish that were taken at Montauk last fall weren't taken at the customary locations at which they had been taken previously. The North Rips and Midway rips—though absolutely loaded down with small and medium sized flats—produced few doormats. The fabled Southside grounds, which only the season before last produced an enormous amount of doormats, produced nothing but medium sized fluke. Off course, small fluke virtually had Montauk surrounded. You could have dropped a baited hook anyplace once you left the twin jetties and caught a mess of fifteen and sixteen inch fluke. The place where some really big fluke were caught was at Shagwong Reef; also out at Block Island. Few fishermen were aware of the precise location to fish, so they went to the usual haunts and caught their smaller fish. For whatever reasons, the big fish were found in new feeding areas.



The fluke first show up in Montauk waters around the first week of June—about two weeks later than the rest of the Island. The water takes a lot longer to warm up out there, so the fish don't arrive as early. The first fish are usually taken at either the North rips or the Midway rips. Around the beginning of July, the inshore waters have warmed sufficiently so the fluke then spread around the Point. They will feed heavily throughout the summer, and as September rolls around, the fish begin to move from the rips and inshore waters and gather at varying spots south of Montauk. It is usually at this time of the year that some of the biggest fluke come in. Sometime around the middle of September, the fluke start moving rapidly offshore and sport fishing for them on rod and reel quickly winds down. A prolonged mild spell will keep the fish around a little longer; as will an early chill send the fish moving a lot earlier—as was the case in the fall of 1976.

Despite the fact that there were a lot of fluke taken at Montauk last year, many fishermen went about fluke fishing in a very haphazard manner. Because of the quantity of fish around, most caught fair amounts of fish. Those fluke fishermen who experimented in new areas and used a scientific approach to their fishing did extremely well. We'll take a look at some of the locations where the fish can be found, and the best techniques to get them.

The first concept that you have to keep in mind is that although the fluke spends much of their time lurking on the bottom, when it comes to feeding time, they will pursue any sort of forage available at virtually all levels of water. They are well equipped with a formidable set of teeth which are quite capable of tearing and chopping any sort of baitfish—such as spearing, sand eels, minnows, bergalls, etc. Out at Montauk, their main food supply consists predominantly of sand eels, which are usually found in large numbers. When the supply of bait is heavy, the fish are content to lie near the bottom and feed on whatever is near them. When the bait supply becomes a little sparse, the fish will stratify to virtually any level of water to find fish. Last year, there were certain occasions when the fluke would actually chase baitfish to the surface in the shallow waters off Gin Beach—which is just east of the Montauk Harbor jetties.

With this concept in mind, you should rig your terminal tackle so that you are presenting a baited hook in the vicinity of the feeding fish. Before we cover the terminal tackle, let's take a look at the type of rod and reel you can use for fluke fishing out here. Both spinning tackle and conventional gear can be used with success, depending upon where you're fishing and what size the fish are running.

When the fish are tight to the beach at such areas as inner Shagwong Reef or along Gin Beach, spinning tackle is more than adequate. For the most part, the fish are small, and the current isn't as strong as it is in other areas. At times, you can get by with one or two ounces of lead; a light to medium weight spinning outfit will allow maximum enjoyment of the sport.

When we get to areas where the fish are going to be running on the larger size, and the strong current necessitates the use of fairly heavy sinkers, we have to stay with the slightly heavier conventional outfits. When it becomes necessary to use four or five ounce sinkers, there is no way spinning tackle will compete with the revolving spool for line control. A good medium weight outfit, in the 20 pound class, should fill the bill for virtually any situations that you may encounter when fluke fishing. The only

time you may run into any trouble is around the period of the full moon, when the tide really starts churning and extremely heavy sinkers are called for. Usually the fishing is slower during this period anyway.

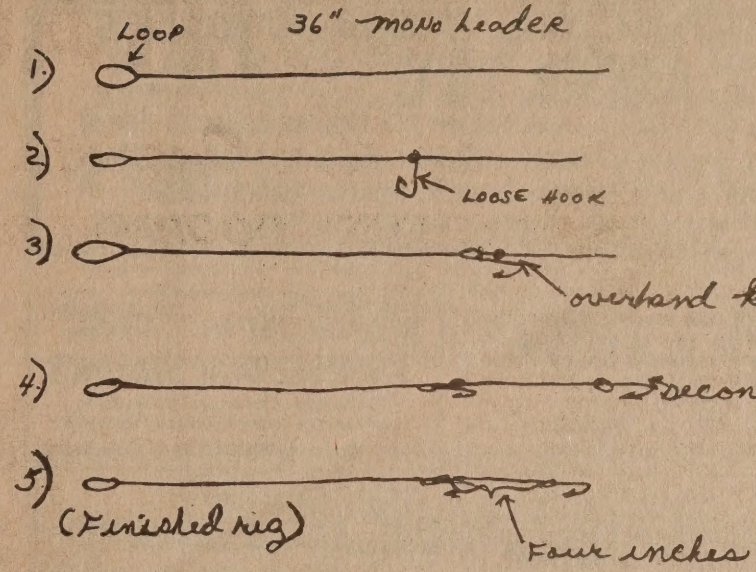
Let's move on to the rig itself that is used for fluke fishing before covering the various techniques. One of the latest innovations that has come upon the fluke scene is the tandem hook rig. Quite simply, the rig consists of two fairly small hooks rigged a couple of inches apart, but tied together to the same length of leader material. The idea behind this is to be able to hook any fish that tend to hit short, or that hit the bait head-first. This rig works pretty well with small and medium sized fish, but the bigger doormats tend to shy away from this rig. A single short shank hook on a long leader is preferred for fooling the big fluke.

The tandem rig, because of its popularity, can be purchased pre-made in any number of tackle shops, or it can easily be made. You take two Eagle Claw hooks, regular shank, about 1/0 in size and use a 36 inch length of monofilament leader material. A loop is made at one end of the leader, while one of the hooks is snelled, or connected to the other end of the leader. Before you make the loop at the other end of the line, the second hook is inserted along the mono leader. About three inches away from the other hook at the terminal end of the leader, you make a small overhand knot so that the free-swinging hook is now stationary (see illustration). When the rig is finished, the head hook is secured about two or three inches away from the tail hook.

Of course, many fishermen still prefer the single long shank hook, rather than the tandem rig. This rig works reasonably well in most cases—especially when the fish are hitting a bait aggressively. The long shank hook makes it easy to remove when the fish take the bait deeply. A single short shank hook attached to the same 36 inch leader, can be used effectively. The main drawback to this rig is that if the bait is swallowed deeply—as it usually is—it is very difficult to extract.

Regardless of what rig you use, proper placement on your line is of the utmost importance. As mentioned earlier, fluke will range all levels of water when they feed, although they, themselves, lay on the bottom. The fact that the bottom is often rough and snags are often inevitable, your main concern is to present the rig in a manner that will allow the fluke to get a good look at the bait, and at the same time, keep the rig from getting fouled on the bottom or picking up some sort of junk. Fluke are usually found in pods in small areas of water, and it would be a waste of time to present a sand eel draped with a chunk of weed or kelp. By attaching the hook twelve inches above the sinker, you can get around this problem. You can use a loop, a three-way swivel, or offset rig to connect the leader to the line. Don't be afraid to raise the leader as much as fifteen or sixteen inches off the bottom if the bottom is very rough. The fluke will come well off the bottom to grab the bait.

Illustration for tandem rig -



As far as baits go, the list goes on and on. Any of the following will work, with some being preferred over others. Sand eels, spearing, smelts, squid, and strips of fluke belly will all take fish. By far and away, the most popular bait for the smaller and medium sized fluke is the sand eel. Naturally, when the waters are loaded with schools of sand eels, this is the logical choice. This bait is best used in conjunction with the tandem rig. The head of the sand eel is hooked on the head hook of the rig, while the tail hook is inserted somewhere out along the middle of the body. Whole smelt and spearing are hooked in a similar manner. Strips of squid are used in conjunction with the sand eels and this adds to its effectiveness. The only drawback with these whole baitfish is the fact that they are fairly soft and are fairly easily removed from the hook on the initial hit. You get just one chance at the fish, or else you come up empty. The way to get around this is by using a strip of fluke belly, or for that matter, any sort of strip bait cut from a mackerel, sea bass, or sea robin. Fluke belly is the most readily obtained fish bait, and is perhaps the most effective. The thing to do is bring a handful of sand eels and use them until you take a small fish. This small fish is then filleted, with the resulting meat used for bait strips. The average size fluke will require a strip about five inches long and about three-quarters of an inch wide. When seeking those extremely big fish, don't be afraid to go to a seven or eight inch long strip. When using the strip bait, it is best to stay away from the tandem rig, and use just the single hook rig. The strip bait is hooked just once—not several times. What you're looking for is a long, waving strip, not a bunched up piece of meat. The fluke belly is virtually impossible to remove from the hook, and it will account for many fish before it is time to replace it. Learning when to hit the fish is the next problem.

When you use the tandem rig, you have both avenues of attack covered, so you can hit the fish pretty quick. As the boat is drifting along and you feel the pick-up, all you have to do is lower the rod tip, and then lift it sharply. Usually, you'll have hooked the fish with either the head or tail hook. The biggest problem arises when you're using single hooks and the fish are big. A big fluke will latch onto a strip bait as it is gliding by before trying to swallow it. This is felt as a steady weight on the end of the line. The thing to do in this case is to put the reel in free spool and feed the fish a few feet of line. If you try to hit the fish now, all you'll succeed in doing is pull the bait from his teeth. You have to give the fish enough time to get the hook into his mouth—not just the bait.

As noted earlier, the North rips and the Midway rips hold tremendous amounts of fluke. The rip is a high piece of ground that juts up sharply from an otherwise uniform bottom. This forces the water into a smaller area and causes a great deal of turbulence. The fluke lie on either side of the rip waiting for the current to carry food down-tide. Usually, the down-tide side of the rip is where the fluke will feed—though they may feed ahead of the rip at times. You pull your boat a few hundred feet ahead of the rip and drift back into the rip for a few hundred feet. The drift is usually limited, as the current is very fast; so you'll be moving the boat around a lot.

When the fluke settle on the south side of Montauk, the fish are not concentrated in any one area by such things as a rip. The fish are found in fairly deep water—as deep as 55 and 60 feet of water—south of the radar towers at the Point. The fish are moving about a bit, and long drifts are often required to locate the fish. This is where patience pays off, and you have to learn how to

(Continued on page 45.)

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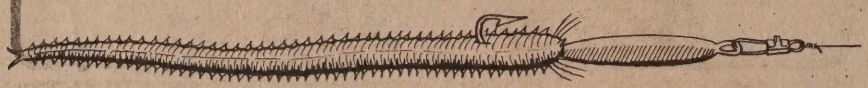

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

The offshore fishing brought back memories of the mid-sixties to Montauk this week when a large body of giant bluefin tuna was discovered 18 miles east of Block Island. We got as many reports of the giants that were taken as possible, but this list is by no means complete. All week long giant tuna were stripping 130 lb. class outfits and many, many giants were broken off. Henry Colombi at the **Star Island Yacht Club** reported that four giant tuna were brought in during the week, including a 465 pounder that Henry caught himself on Capt. Bruce Whitaker's boat "San Wit". Henry fished with Al Riccio and Richard Polidori on this first trip that he has been able to make since opening up Montauk's largest marina three years ago. The tuna was gut hooked after taking a whole mackerel and only took an hour to bring in. On Sunday, the "Brute" weighed in a giant of 985 pounds taken 18 miles east of Block Island. John Hopkins spent 4½ hours to bring the beast to gaff. Richard Towlen took two giant tuna during the week on his 23 foot Seacraft outboard with a bow mounted fighting chair on his boat the "R-Pleasure II." On Friday John Orr and Michael Kelly took turns on the rod with Mike to bring in a tuna of 865 pounds. During the battle, which lasted 7 hours, the gimbal broke on the fighting chair and the fish was fought for five hours using only a belly harness. The reason the fish took so long to bring to gaff was the line was wrapped around the fish's pectoral fin and his head couldn't be turned. On Saturday the boat took a giant tuna of 891 pounds that only took 1¼ hours to bring to gaff. All this action was east of Block Island just west of Coxe's Ledge. Tommy at the

Bob Gay of Roslyn Heights took this 730 lb. bluefin tuna chumming with whiting and ling and taken on a live whiting. This eight-foot giant took 40 minutes to land and was taken southeast of Block Island in 135 feet of water aboard the Seacon IV, with Walter Haab and was docked at Carl Darrenberg's Montauk Marine Basin.

Left to Right: R. Kinsey, Mary and Paul Stanislaw and S. Hickey, with forty blues and a 30 lb. bass taken by Mary, her first, aboard the "Barracuda."

Montauk Marine Basin also reported that they weighed in their share of giant bluefin tuna during the week. On Monday Capt. Bill Holzman's "Merlin" took a giant of 1031 pounds with Koz McQueeny on the rod. On Tuesday Bob Gay of Roslyn Heights took a 730 lb. giant fishing aboard Capt. Walter Haab's charterboat "Seacon IV". On Friday, the "Crestliner", owned by Al Goldstein and skippered by Capt. Paul Higby took a giant of 1044 pounds. They also had an 803 lb. giant on Sunday. On Friday, Capt. Fritz Hubner's charterboat **MISTRESS TOO** brought a 751 pound giant to gaff. The fish was 9 feet 1 inch long. Friday was the big day for the giant tuna. The "Celia P" took a fish of 860 pounds; The "Sea Lion" took a tuna of 767 pounds; The "Salamar" took a giant of 800 pounds. Capt. Frank Hammer of the "Salamar" was high hook with 5 giant bluefin taken during for the week. Tuesday one fish 780 pounds, two on Thursday up to 697 pounds, an 800 pounder on Friday and his largest fish of the week on Sunday, 967 pounds. On Saturday the "Thresher" out of **Lake Montauk Marina** weighed in a fish of 635 pounds. On Sunday three giants were weighed in at Montauk Marine Basin. The "Marlee V" took a fish of 880 pounds, the "Do Stay" brought in one of 806 pounds, and the "Sea Lion" brought in its 2nd giant of the week, a giant of 1071 pounds that is the largest giant bluefin tuna ever to be taken in U.S. waters.

Gone Fishing Marina reports an abundance of bluefish caught at the sub buoys over the weekend with weakfish of considerable size also being taken. Fluking in the North Rip has also improved and fluke over 10 pounds are no longer uncommon. Herb Suhr, his wife and father caught 38 fluke on Thursday, while Nick Vicramo, John Rizziero and Rick Waldmann launching their boat "Joan and Nick III" from the Marina, yanked in an equal number of blues over the weekend.

Capt. Ron Grandinetti of the charterboat **Julie III** called to report that a party of 6 on Sat. took 52 blues and 13 weakfish out in the Triangle. In the same area on Sunday another party of 6 caught 121 blues up to 14¼ pounds fishing near Scott Simons.

Henry Colombi at the **Star Island Yacht**

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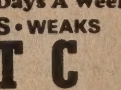

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Club said that the giant bluefin tuna action wasn't the only great fishing at Montauk this week. Bluefish and weakfish are still providing bonanza catches in the Triangle area, although not as many weakfish are now being taken. Those trolling umbrella rigs or diamond jigging are still catching virtually all the fish they want. Fluke fishing has also improved tremendously with very good catches now coming in from the rips at Midway. Keith Bronson and Bert "Blow 'em Up" Rockfield took 40 bluefish on the "Sea Spray" in the Pocketbook grounds trolling wire. Capt. Artie on the Bumblebee made a good score on Sunday fishing offshore 220 degrees southeast of the Point. His charter weighed in a brown shark of 305 pounds and a 90 inch long white marlin.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** called to say that his brand new boat, the **Viking Starship** will be at the Viking Dock on Saturday, ready to sail it's maiden voyage at 4 A.M. to Coxe's Ledge for cod. We would advise you to get there early for a good spot on the boat. The **Starship** should really be "Something Else."

Charterboat **Free Spirit** called to say that on Tuesday, he ran to 40 Fathoms for an 80 lb. brown shark and a 60 lb. mako. On Thursday, it was east of Block Island where a 6/0 was stripped by an unseen giant something, probably a tuna, along with 9 blue shark, 8 of which were tagged. A 35 foot whale came up to the boat to say hello. Sat. it was east of Block Island again to tag five blue shark. The tuna are obviously feeding heavily on tinker mackerel. On Sunday in 190' of water south of the Pt., things were slow due to no drift and the abundance of squid in the water.

Viking Skipper II reports excellent porgy fishing and Capt. Bud says the fall run is certainly on. Thurs. it was red hot with ten men having over 100 porgies each. High hook was 203 fish for Brooklyn's Irv Gardner. Rudy James of the Bronx fished three days this week averaging 106 porgies each day. High hook on Sat. was 162 fish. On Sunday Gloria Bryan of the Bronx had 105 porgies including a good number of jumbos.

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From Left to Right: Al Picci, Howard Kalka, Mike Swerdlow, and Frank Petacco. Mike took the big fish out of the 25 bass plus a dozen mixed blues and weaks the party had aboard Capt. John DeMaio's charterboat "Vivienne."

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SA-GEE CAPT. FRED RIEGE (516) 261-3662	**Sea Doll** CAPT. GENE KELLY (516) 668-2019	**Wee Mac** Capt. Harry McAllister (212) 225-1158

Happy with their first mako caught aboard "Modar II" with Capt. Pete Van Alst, are this party from Huntington which includes John Van Bladel, Dick Thompson, Willie Peterson, Skip Stokes, Jim Quincy and Tony Mangano.

Capt. Gene Kelly of the charterboat **Sea Doll** was one of the Captains to score with a giant bluefin tuna. On Friday the charter fished about 15 miles east of Block Island around the draggers and hooked up with two fish. A 996 lb. giant bluefin tuna was boated and two others broke off on Thursday. One was larger than the 996 pounder according to the captain, and may have been an All Tackle IFGA Record if it had been caught. The 996 pounder also lost a considerable amount of weight due to a nose bleed that poured out many gallons of blood.

Capt. Richard Rade of the **Marlin IV** reported that he will now be porgy fishing exclusively now that the fall run of Montauk jumbo porgies has begun. The fluke fishing was fantastic during the week and the porgy fishing was excellent on the weekend.

Capt. Larry Rodriguez of the charterboat **Tiderunner** called to tell us that he had a one man charter out on Sat. for a mixed catch of 30 blues and weaks up to 14 pounds, both dragging wire and by jigging (Not at the same time.) On Sunday, another charter enjoyed a good catch of blues up to 14 pounds by the same methods. Larry says that he has two morning dates open for next weekend.

Ron Fede of Surf and Sea Anglers called to say that his group sailed with Capt. Jordan Hall on the **Dock One** to the tune of 15 big blues on umbrellas and a 185 lb. blue shark. At the gaff, a 200 plus pound mako was dropped when it bit through the leader.

PROMISED LAND

Art Brand of the **Promised Land Fishing Station** said that the fluking picked up to good proportions during the week around the Nun No. 2 off Hicks Island. High hook was 30 fish with the better fishermen usually taking a few dozen nice fluke. The spread of fish size wise is from legal to 6 pounds and sand eels and squid are the best bait. Porgy fishing remains good although spotty at times off Gardiners Island and Rocky Pt. by Fort Pond Bay. A few small sea bass are mixed with the scup. Art said that there is also a lot of 2 pound class blues running around in Gardiners Bay that are being taken by casting poppers. Just follow the birds.

EAST HAMPTON

Bill Cox at the **Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station** reported that the fluke seemed to be moving out of the area and there are not too many left. But the porgy fishing is very good all over from Cedar Pt. to Gardiners Island. Some boat rentals have come in with up to 350 pounds of porgies for 3 men. The fish are mixed sizes and range up to 1¾ pounds.

SHINNECOCK

Capt. Clark Bellows Sr. of the **Capt. Clark Fleet** reported that the porgy fishing has been holding up very good and is very consistent. Fish ranging from ¾ to 1¼ pounds are on almost all of the local Peconic Bay wrecks. Clark said that the boats had two good days with the weakfish during the week. On Wed. and Thurs. over 80 weakfish were taken. Due to the boat traffic, the weekend weakfishing was picky but fortunately the porgy fishing

★ BULLETIN ★ BULLETIN ★ BULLETIN ★

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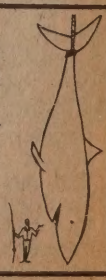

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held up. Clark said that he is starting to see a few blackfish each day and a sprinkling of kingfish mixed in with the porgies.

HAMPTON BAYS

Mike at **Skippers Fishing Station** reported that the fluke fishing was very good all week with the boats bringing in between 15 and 20 keepers each. For some reason fishing slowed on the weekend. Mike said that live snappers have been taking big fish five pounds and up, and most of the fluke in the 2 to 3 lb. class are being taken on sand eel and squid bait. Some sea bass are mixed in and there are loads of snappers all over the bay. Best areas for fluke have been in front of the CG Station, the East Channel and the mouth of the inlet around the change of the tide. The crabbing has never really gotten off the ground for reasons unknown. Offshore action is excellent with anglers trolling umbrella rigs 2½ miles southeast of the inlet loading up on weakfish,

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Gregg Lee of Bayport was out bluefishing in Moriches Inlet and caught this 87 lb. blue shark. He was aboard a private boat launched at Hi-way Fishing Station.

blues and albacore. Off-Offshore anglers are taking yellowfin tuna, mako sharks and white marlin.

Frank's Fishing Station reports that the fluke fishing is only fair, although it has improved from a week ago. Best action seems to be on the last three hours of incoming water between buoys 18 and 20. Sand eels and squid combo best bait. Snapper fishing is fantastic virtually everywhere.

Corr's Fishing Station reports fluke in Shinnecock Bay improving this week to the tune of 5 to 10 keepers per man with sharpshooters getting anywhere from 20 to 40 keepers. Largest of the season was taken on Sat. by Doug Newcamp with a 15 lb. 2 oz. net jammer on sand eels in the channel west of Shinnecock Inlet. Best action is in East Channel and the West Channel by Shinnecock Inlet. Some fluke at the P Bridge. Try sand eel and squid combos. Live killies and snappers are also working well, with snappers all over the joint.

MORICHES BAY

East Moriches Bait and Tackle called to report the fluking has picked up by the CG Station and buoys 39 and 36. Fred Mignone had 7 fluke all around 3 to 4½ pounds on sand eel and squid. Also offshore Vinny Pascal of Mastic caught 11 bonito up to 13 pounds in 110 feet of water southeast of Moriches Inlet on yellow and white feathers. On Sunday Ai Skiba got a 68 blue fin tuna in 105' of water, 155 degrees southeast of Moriches Inlet on a white feather lure. Roger Royalty got a 150 lb. blue shark southeast of Moriches Inlet and Joe Baborra aboard the "Shamrock" had a 100 lb. dusky on Sunday. The Great Gun Anglers are having their shark tournament on Sept. 10. Entries will be taken at E. Moriches Bait and Tackle as well as inquiries.

Skidmore's Fishing Station reported that fluke fishing was good most of the week and the fish averaged 1½ to 2 pounds with doormats up to 13 pounds 4 ounces being weighed in. Sand eels and squid bait are producing best in the Elbow area and in the New Cut. Steve Alter weighed in a doormat of 10 pounds 4 ounces. A school of weaks 1½ to 5 pounds is providing anglers with a lot of action in the hole east of buoy 42. Salty dogs

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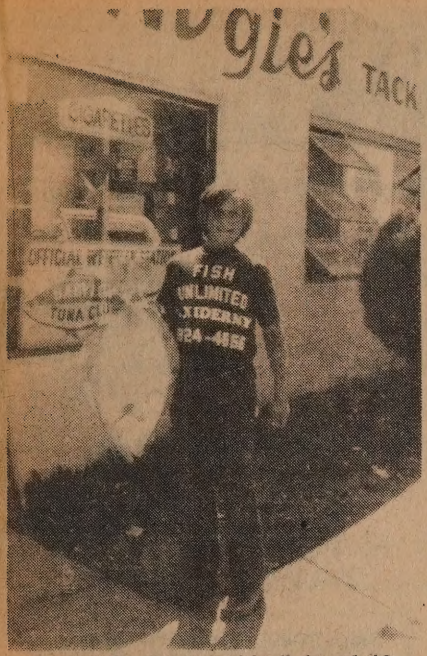
Jim Stolze and brother-in-law Gary Hoerning with a 63 lb. white marlin taken on a rigged balao. The fish was taken ESE of Shinnecock Inlet in 120 feet of water. The fish took seven jumps before coming to boat.



Danny Brady took this fluke of 10 lbs. 7 oz. at the Robert Moses Bridge on squid, killies and sand eels. The fish is being mounted by Fish Unlimited, and the photo is courtesy of Augie's Bait & Tackle.

with squid strip is the key. Bluefish in the same size range are mixed with the weaks and there are also porgies and sea bass in the same area.

Tadsen's Fishing Station reported that the fluke fishing has been fairly good in the area from the West Cut to buoy 30. Best catch on Fri. was 20 keepers up to 2½ pounds. There isn't too many blue claw crabs around but those being taken are big. The snapper fishing is going full blast all over the bay.

MASTIC BEACH

STERITZ FISHING STATION reports good fluking on the weekend at the West side of the bridge, at buoys 12-15 on squid, spearing and sand eels with outgoing best. Blue claw crabs from buoys 12-17 in traps. Snappers are all over the place most 10-12 inches on spearing and small tins. Eight to ten pound weaks on the outside on deep-trolled umbrellas in 80' of water.

SAYVILLE

YOUNGS FISHING STATION reports that on Friday, Al Morgan and two buddies had upwards of 60 weakfish off Sayville in the channel fishing alongside the dredges. Lots of weaks, with all their skiffs bringing back 15 fish and up, mostly on squid baits. A few fluke mixed in with the weaks plus a few kings and blows. The weaks are being caught under sunny or rainy skys and the dredges are there working Mon. thru Sat.

WEST SAYVILLE

SOUTH BAY FISHING STAITON reports lots of weaks just west of buoy 29 off Hecksher on squid and on small Salty Dogs. Tom Savine of Corona on Sat. had 72 weaks form 2-4½ lbs, 28 blowfish and 6 fluke up to 3½ lbs, fishing both tides. Small blues off Pt. of Woods from 4-5 lbs on Hopkins. Snappers are abundant and all over the place up to 15 inches in size. Few but large blue claws. The weaks and fluke are mixed at buoy 29.

OAKDALE

Capt. Raul Delacruz of the **October Run** reports he is slaughtering blues southwest of the NB in 100 to 105 feet of water days on white or natural color tubes, either single or umbrellas. These are jumbo blues, 12 to 18 pounds. Five to six hundred pounds were taken in 5 hours of trolling on Sunday, with four knock downs at a time being common. Capt. Irv of **Big Red** tells us that the ocean is alive out in the area of the NB, that everything that can swim out there is swimming. The **Big Red's** crew will be participating in the 3 day marlin tournament at Ocean City Maryland next week, which Irv says they have won for the last two years in a row. Top prize this year is $20,000. Also, plenty of fluke are being taken in Fire Island Inlet from the bridge to the mouth, especially on the East Bank on sand eels, killies and squid.

OAK BEACH

THE STORE reports lots of fluke this week and weekend with sand eels, squid and spearing working well. A six pounder was taken by one angler fishing off the Lighthouse on sand eels. Bob Sandora had an 8 lb 6 oz weak fishing the Sore Thumb from the shore on Tri-Fin Whiptails. Bruce Hockstradt took a 10 lb 5 oz weakfish on bait off the bulkhead south of the Store. Fourteen yr old Susie Stoud caught a 4 lb fluke on sand eels in the inlet this week. Good fluking and weaks form the lighthous to the inlet with blues in the early morning on umbrellas and tubes. Large blacks up to 3½ lbs being taken from the rocks in front of **THE STORE** on clam at slack water. Lots of snappers all around.

BAY SHORE

SMOKEY'S BAIT AND TACKLE reports very good fluking from the C.G. Station to the mouth of the inlet with the top of the flood the best. Four year old Stacey and eight year old Richear Miller and Maria totaled 20 fluke from 2-4 lbs on squid and sand eels during the week, fishing the length of the inlet. Archie Rhodes took a 10¼ lb fluke fishing east of the C. G. Station on live snapper along with 24 other keepers. Blows are mixed in on squid. A 4 lb fluke was taken while snapper fishing on spearing by Leo Argis off the Babylon dock Weakfish on umbrellas and white tubes and on live snapper in the inlet. Blues S/S/E of FI Inlet in 80' of water, fish 4-15 pounds plus some bonito and albies, which seem to be preferring spearing baits. Tuna in 125' of water, 150 degrees out of FI Inlet on red and white feathers. A bluefin tuna of between 175 and 200 lbs was fought and dropped by one sad soul. A few tuna in the 20's fell this week to red and white feathers.

CAPTREE

The **Speedy VI** reports a bluefish slaughter on Monday's and Thursday's day trips on jigs and bananas. When fishing the Three Sisters Area, the fish are running 1½ to 4 pounds, and the Stain is producing fish from 3 to 12 pounds. When it's not a slaughter, the rest of the time it is still good. Boat traffic seems to mess the fishing up some as the fish are very moody and prone to swimming this season. Sunday saw big fish taken plus some albies and skipjack. A lot of tuna were seen and also whales and there is an abundance of life in the area southeast of the HA buoy. Sat. trip to the Stain put the boat on a big body of choppers in the afternoon. Locating the fish is the hardest part of the day. Night time saw some excellent catches, though some nights it was a little slow but fares are catching on all trips. The jig and banana fishing during the day is being readily adapted to by all

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SHARK • TUNA • BLUES
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Chair • Full Electronics • Tuna Tower
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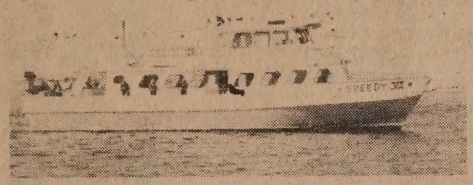

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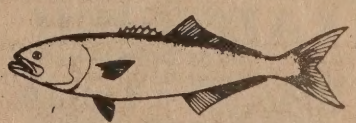

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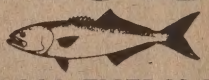

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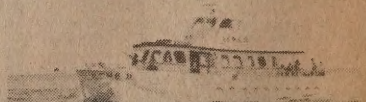

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customers. 600 fish were taken for 50 fares on Thurs., 350 on Friday and 450 on Wednesday. Speedy says the fishing must be classified fair to excellent.

The **Lady Ann** reports blues and fluke are very cooperative. Monday's day trip saw 160 blues for 16 men. Thursday night's bluefish trip was 130 fish in the bag. Friday's day fluke trip had 55 keepers. On Friday night they had 45 giant blues. 50 fluke were taken on Saturday. On Sat. night 22 passengers had over 200 choppers from 10 to 15 pounds—a real slaughter. Sunday's fluking was excellent, 100 keepers for 16 men. Sunday's 4 P.M. reservation blue trip was good with a steady pick of giants from 3 to 8 fish per man. Steve Weiss had 8 blues on that trip with a total weight of 102 pounds.

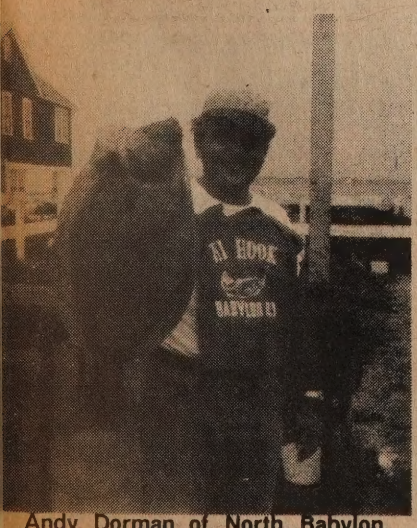
The Captain Ben Litwin reported that there was good fluke fishing in Great South Bay until Friday. Sat. fishing was slow, and Sunday's fishing was even slower. Best areas have been around the Robert Moses Bridge and in the inlet using killies and squid for bait. On Sat. a woman took the pool with a 7 lb. doormat fluke that was taken in the inlet.

Capt. George Tweedy of the **Capt. Scotty** reported that he made a good wreck trip for cod and pollack during the week to the wreck of the Oregon. Bluefishing has been a little picky both day and night with the exception of Thursday, when 500 blues were boated. The Capt. also reported sighting some giant bluefin tuna pushing bait while bluefishing.

BABYLON

AUGIES BAIT AND TACKLE reports a 7 lb 11 oz fluke taken on whole squid at dusk at the Sore Thumb by James Domeischel of Babylon. Dolores weighed in a 722 lb tiger shark caught by John Bowmann of Babylon, a member of the South Shore Marlin and Tuna Club, fishing in 160' of water South of the Inlet using a bluefish for bait. It took 1½ hrs to boat this critter on Sunday. On Saturday Tony Smeidle weighed in his 670 lb tiger taken on his boat Small Fry fishing a mackerel at the Texas Tower. Lots of snappers around. Crabbing is spotty but those taken are big. Fluking is hot and cold all up & down F.I. Inlet, tho shut outs are rare. A 13¼ lb fluke was hung in the inlet by Ken King on a live snapper. Some weaks to 9½ lbs are being taken in the inlet on squid strips.

Mario at **HI-HOOK FISHING STATION** tells of Andy Dorman's 15½ lb fluke taken on a sea robin belly taken off the C. g. Station. Al Albert of Patterson NJ had a 7 lb fluke on sand eels off the C.G. Station. Fluking good general. Paul Monaco Sr and Jr took a load of snappers, porgies and blows off the Babylon Pool in the E.W. Channel on worms and clam. Bill Croney had a 10 lb and a 4 lb fluke on sand eels in this same spot. Plenty of snappers and sand porgies. Small weaks east of the bridge off Brightwaters on Salty Dogs.



Andy Dorman of North Babylon took this 15 lb. 8 oz. fluke across from the Coast Guard station on sea robin belly. Photo courtesy of Hi-Hook Fishing Station.

LINDENHURST

The raccoon in **Charlie's Bait and Tackle** reports Nick K and Joey G. had three bass and two weakfish fishing the hole off the Lighthouse with live snapper and live bunker early last week. George Keshon of Charlie's West Bait and Tackle fishing Wednesday in 125' of water had his boat towed a good 15 miles by some monster that he hooked, which had to be either a great white or a giant tuna. His sleigh ride lasted two hours. Fluking in the inlet is excellent from the Lighthouse to the mouth of the inlet and also at the East Bar. This is on sand eels and squid. Blues are spotty offshore but good catches are being made. Loads of snappers around and a few large blue claws.

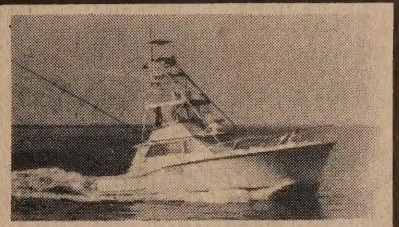
Sea Horse II reports that action during the week was good and poor on the weekend fishing the inlet and State Channel. It was a steady pick with most fish averaging 1½ pounds. On the weekend the fishing was good in the morning 'till the boat traffic started.

Duke's Bait and Tackle reports snappers very good all over, best at the high. They are 8 to 10 inches. Crabbing is disappointing. Fluke remain excellent in Fire Island Inlet, many fish two to three pounds. Very good bluefishing offshore, best trolling with umbrellas. Bonito and tuna also being trolled offshore from 105 to 130' of water.

COPIAGUE

JONAS BAIT AND TACKLE tells us that Al Morgillo on Thur. had an 11 lb 8 oz fluke on live snapper fishing between Zach's Bay and the Wantagh Bridge along with 2 weakfish and 2 other fluke. Fishing has been good all week with 40 keepers for one man on Sunday fishing from the C.G. Station to the mouth of the inlet with live killies and live spearing.

FREEPORT



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The wreck buoy off the lighthouse produced a 10½ lb striper taken on a clam baited porgy rig. Porgies and blowfish at the Amityville Cut and beaches and the Copiague hole. Weaks off the F.I. Lighthouse up to 9 lbs on live snapper. A 2 lb 2 oz seabass was taken on an outside wreck along with some fluke on squid. The Copiague Hole is producing weakfish on a jigged #2 Hopkins and also on live snapper. Snappers are all over the place, unlike the blue claw crabs. The porgies and blows, as usual, are after sand worm and

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle reports very good fluking in the inlet, particularly around the area of the 3rd Wantagh Bridge on live snappers where weakfish can be taken also on the same bait. Goose Creek is producing fluke also on sand eels and squid. Squaw and West Islands are producing porgies and blowfish. There are plenty of snappers all over.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle reports fluking continues good, best from Zach's Bay in the State Channel up to the inlet on sand eels, spearing and skillies. Lots of weaks at the 3rd Wantagh on snappers fished one and half feet off the bottom, up to 18 per boat this past week with the beginning of outgoing best. Fish away from the bridge with a 2/0 treble in the snappers mouth. Snappers are all over the place and of good size. Some porgies and flounders around taking clam baits in the deep holes.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** says that Sunday was a tough day though there were some boats coming back with 10s and 20s of fluke fishing Rowboat Alley and at the juncture of Haunts and Neds Creeks. Some

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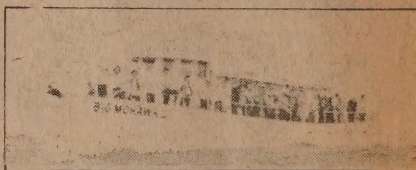

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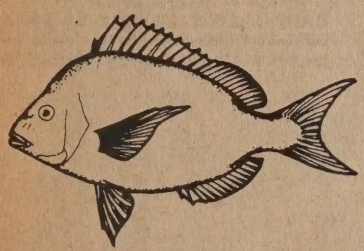

good catches were also made on Saturday. All this was live killies and squid strips. There is good flounder fishing at the Meadowbrook Bridge on clam. Nine bonito were taken in 140' of water, 140 degrees out with catches of blues mixed in also. Weaks on killies and on snappers at the Wantagh Bridges in the 5-6 lb. range. Fluking is generally holding up well. Snappers are all over the joint.

BALDWIN

Arthur St. Fishing Station tells us that George Fischer had a 39½ lb. striped bass fishing live bunker in the inlet at 7:30 A.M. on Wed. morning. Jerry Kircher has been taking weakfish in the inlet on umbrellas. Fluke are being trolled on snappers, fish being 3 to 4 pounds. Crabbing is starting with some boats getting up to 1½ bushels.

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N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

The capt. Hall reports very good fluking on Sunday with fishing being sort of up and down all week. On Sunday one man had 13 keepers, another had 9 keepers. Thurs. was a very good catch and on Sunday a five pounder was brought in. Best action this week was in the back creeks on sand eels, squid and spearing.

The charterboat **Nite Owl** called to tell us that on Friday Andy Albanese and party had 2 shark in the 100 lb. range. Saturday's charter of Bob Geneve and party had 3 shark in the 75 lb. range. On Sat. Tony Kim and party of Amko Universal Co. over an offshore wreck had roughly 250 pounds of slugging cod along with six bonito. A 24 lb. wahoo was trolled up later in the day.

Charterboat **Sea Hawk** called to tell us that he had 20 fluke on Friday half of which were keepers fishing the Freeport and Oceanside creeks on sand eels and squid. On Sat. his charter fished 35 miles south of the inlet taking one brown shark and 10 jumbo bluefish while dropping ten others. This was Paul Bundy and party.

Starstream II reports the day bottom fishing is still very good with ling and some sea bass and a few cod and pollack also racked up at the offshore wrecks. The night bluefishing on the **Starstream II** runs from warm to hot and is generally classified as good. The fish are of mixed sizes anywhere from 1½ up to 12 pound choppers. The fish can be so thick that even your reporter had 13 last Tuesday night, with Capt. Chris finding the fish south of the Three Sisters.

The **Miss Freeport** called to say that Mary Nees of Lynbrook took a 9¾ lb. fluke on Tuesday, fishing the inlet with killies. On Friday four to six pound bluefish were bailed from 2 to 4 P.M. on jigs and bananas. Sat. saw good fluking for another group, high hook being 11 fluke fishing the inlet and back creeks with killies and sand eels. Starting on

Dave McMurran with bass of 13 lbs. 9 oz., 27 lbs. 8 oz., and 35 lbs. 11 oz., taken on live eels aboard the Ja-Da.

Aug. 29, the **Miss Freeport** will be fluking Monday through Friday as an open boat, sailing 7:30 A.M., says Tony.

Capt. Arnold of the **Shalidon** called to say that he came up on an 18 foot long great white shark in 140' of water on Saturday. Lacking the harpoon gear, Arnold tried to bait the fish but the beast wanted bigger tid bits than what were offered to him. He wouldn't touch anything. More chum and bait still resulted in a zero. Arnold says that he is immediately equipping the boat with harpoons, kegs, etc. On Friday, another charter trolled a dozen big blues from 10 to 14 pounds.

The Capt. Al reports that bluefishing was fantastic during the week. On Thurs. Art Douglas had 25 fish from 8 to 15 pounds jigging the acid water. On Sunday the fishing slowed but the captain's wife came up with ten bluefish to 9 pounds. The **Capt. II** reports that the fluke fishing has been alright on his half day trips. He has been fishing from Swift Creek to Reynolds Channel and his fares have been picking up 4 to 5 keepers per person with fish ranging from 1 to 2 pounds with the pool fish running to 4. The captain hopes to get out to the wrecks this coming week to find some bigger fluke.

The **Aloma II** reports that fluke fishing has slowed down with a lot of small fluke being taken. On Sunday the fluke fishing was slow so the boat went offshore for ling and loaded up with them. The **Aloma** is fishing the local areas and does very good with sea bass and ling. A working fisherman can fill up a burlap bag with ling to 3 pounds and sea bass to 1½ pounds.

The Bluefin II reports that on Friday fishing the Three Sisters area the boat took about 60 fish from 3 to 4 pounds using bananas and jigs. On Sat. night Capt. Warren Clyne had 80 plus bluefish for a small group fishing south of the Anglers Bank with cut bait. These fish averaged 4 pounds. On Sunday fishing the HA buoy the boat had a fair catch of blues to 12 pounds. The fish were jigged and a lot of time was spent chasing the fast moving schools of choppers.

Mike Padula called to say that him and his friends Frank Gross and Bob Wisnewski almost won the shark contest run by Frank's Marina on Sunday aboard their boat the "Beer Can". They caught the only eligible shark over 65 pounds, a 195 lb. hammerhead shark that was 8 feet 10 inches long. They took the monster two miles southeast of the HA Buoy in the chum slick. The reason they didn't win the contest was because they ran out of gas on the way back and missed the weigh-in deadline as a result. All entry fee money was returned.

Ron at **Sea Isle Sports** reports fluking continues good in the inlet on sand eels and squid. He also tells us that there are catches of sea bass and porgies being made in the bay

This 60 pound mako shark was landed by Donald Roth's party aboard Capt. Arnold's charterboat "Shalidon." The fish was caught in 200 feet of water, ten miles South of the HA buoy. There were also several duskies taken and released.

Joe Carione and his 217 lb. Allison tuna which was the first tuna of the L.I. season and the largest allison tuna ever caught on the east coast and only ten pounds below the world record. The tuna was caught July 7, 1977 aboard Capt. Dick Svoboda's boat "Miss Marion III" at the Hudson Canyon after a four hour fight. The fish struck a George Combs Cedar jig on 50 lb. Ande line and was gaffed by Art Baldwin with Tony Sanchez at the wire. All fishermen are members of the Babylon Tuna Club.

on worms and squid and that you have to find a hole or a high piece. Blues and bonito being trolled on the outside on umbrellas and tubes.

Anthony's Fishing Station tells us that Joe Ponterella, Rick Romanek and Tony Gerace of Staten Island came back with 40 keeper fluke one day this past week, fishing east of the last Meadowbrook Bridge on killies, squid and sand eels. Tony says that you have to try using Mr. Twister type tails on your fluke rigs, that they are readily attacked. An 8 lb. 6 oz. fluke is leading in Tony's pool for the season. Most fish being taken are around 1¾ pounds to 2 with lots of 3s. Snappers very good all over on shiners on a float or small tins. Some flounders taken from Short Beach with scattered catches of sea bass and lafayettes on clam. There are lots of fish in the area.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports that fluking is good in Reynolds Channel, buoy 5 in the inlet and trolling the flats. The fish are averaging 2½ to 3 pounds with one 5½ pounder coming in. One party came in to the station with 25 nice sized fluke. Flounder can be caught in Swift Creek and at the Coast Guard Station. Lafayettes and porgies are plentiful and being taken at the golf course and buoys 16 and 18. A fair amount of weakfish are being taken at the Meadowbrook Bridge. Howie Franke fished offshore at the HA buoy and took 7 dusky sharks. While out there he saw a lot of whales and sharks in this area.

Scotty's Marina reports that fluke are being taken at the Pt. Lookout Bridge and at the Golf Course. Stripers are being taken clam chumming at the Meadowbrook and Wantagh Bridges, the biggest running up to 33 pounds. Blackfish up to 5½ pounds are hitting fiddler crabs and skimmer clams at the Rota Wreck, T Wreck and at the Meadowbrook Bridge. Snappers can be taken at the Pt. Lookout Pier and at the Coast Guard Base. Joe Abrams took 7 bonito, 2 albacore and a mess of blues from 5 to 10 pounds on feathers and bucktails with pork rind. Fishing was done offshore in 140' of water. Irving Grossman aboard the "Three Gs" took bluefish from 3 to 12 pounds on umbrellas in 130' of water. Pat Dockweiler of E. Meadow took a 6¾ lb. fluke at the Pt. Lookout Bridge on sand eels.

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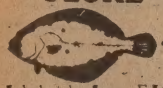

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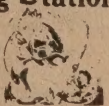

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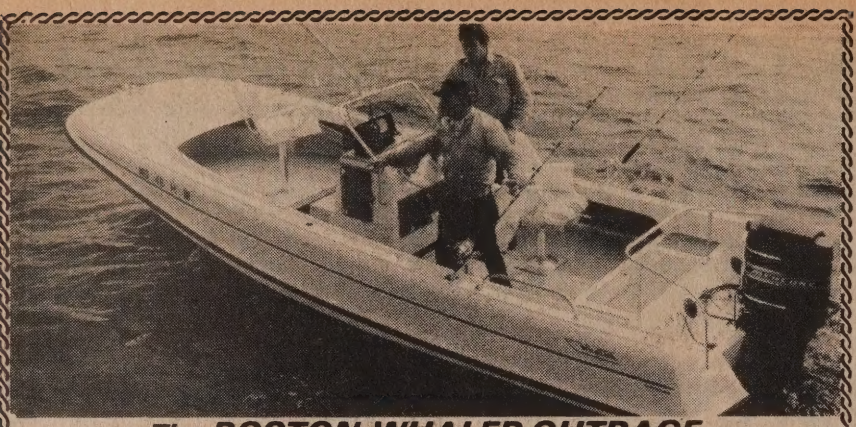

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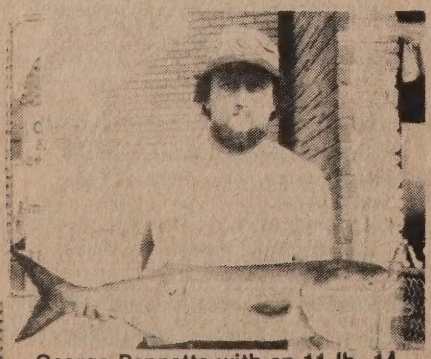
Jerry Brunell of Kew Gardens with a tiger shark which was one of eleven sharks caught on the "Kim" east of the HA buoy.

the HA buoy was fair. When the fish hit they came in shots with 15 to 20 fish on at a time. The fish were hitting bananas and jigs. On different drops fish of different weights came up, sometimes 10 to 16 pounds and other times 6 to 8 pounds. Some bonito and albacore were seen breaking the surface at the buoy.

The **Enterprise** reports that on Sunday fishing for bluefish at the HA Buoy, the boat did very good. The fish were hitting bananas and jigs, drifting and chumming. The average catch was 8 to 10 fish per person with no concentration of fish 'till 3 P.M.

The **Dorothy B** reports excellent fluking at the Tin Can Grounds, in the channel and at Chapel Hill. An average catch of 12 fish from 2 to 3 pounds were had. The pool fish usually runs up to 7 or 8 pounds.



George Pannette with an 11 lb. 14 oz. bluefish taken off Fort Wadsworth on a Gibbs Polaris plug. Photo courtesy of Santo's Sport Shop.

ISLAND PARK

Beckman's Tackle reports fluke fishing very good in Reynolds Channel, and at Pt. Lookout. Fish up to 4½ pounds are hitting sand eels, squid and spearing. Lafayettes and porgies are in the bay and hitting worms and skimmer clams. Bluefish are spotty offshore and are hitting umbrellas and single tubes. These fish are ranging anywhere from 5 to 6 pounds.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **New Eagle** reports that fluking is very good at Ambrose and Getney Channel with sand eels, squid and smelts. Fish from 7 to 8 pounds are being caught and up to 10 fish per person have been had. The night bluefishing has been fair southeast of Klondike with the choppers hitting bunker backs and smelts.

The **Helen H** reports that on Sunday fishing

Don and Mike Feldman and Ken and Louis Bogash from Hicksville are shown with part of their catch of blues and weaks taken aboard the charterboat "Sea Bee."

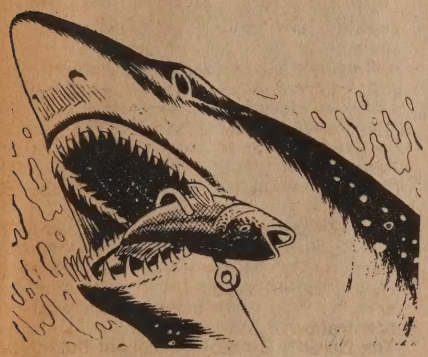
Stella Maris Bait and Tackle reports lots of fluke taken this week and weekend at Ambrose Channel and Sandy Hook Bay on spearing and sand eels. Fluking has evidently picked up greatly. Good bluefishing at Norton's Pt. on bunker chunks.

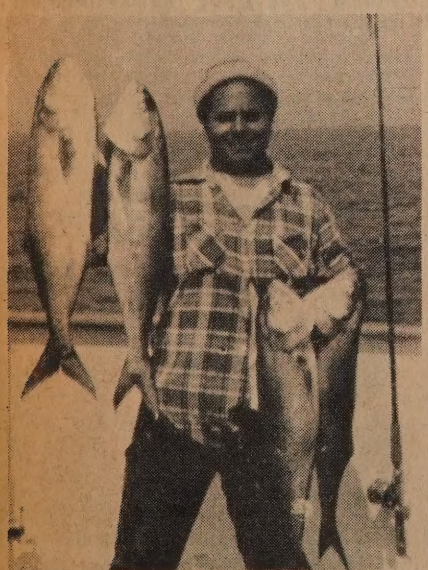
JAMAICA BAY

Cross Bay Bait and Tackle reports that snappers are hitting spearing at the North and South Channel Bridges with fish running anywhere from small to half pound. Porgies and lafayettes are hitting worms on Beach Channel Drive and at the North and South Channel Bridges. Marine Parkway Bridge is producing fluke from 14 to 18 inches from both shore and boat on squid, killies, sand eels and spearing.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop reports that bunker and butterfish are producing 8 to 14 lb. bluefish at South Beach and at the Berger Avenue storm sewers. The last two hours of outgoing and the first of incoming are producing best. Penny Beach and Cliff St. are producing a slow pick of bass from shorts to 4 pounds on worms. Snappers, porgies and lafayettes can be taken along the Staten Island shoreline. 2 to 3 lb. blues are in Princess Bay and are hitting spoons, tubes and gorilla rigs.





Charles Foreste, Jr., with some of the bluefish from 10 to 13 pounds taken aboard the "Helen H" out of Sheepshead Bay. Subscriber Club Photo.

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MONTAUK BLUES

(Continued from page 15.)

then get a couple of guys together and charter one. Not all of the Montauk charterboats will do this type of fishing for their own reasons, but the few that will are good at it: Captain Sweetman is one of those few. Cartwright fishing is a full day charter and will run you $250 for a six-man charter. This may sound a little steep at first, but compare it to what six anglers would pay on an open boat. Plus, you have the boat to yourself, and a mate and a captain to give you more personal attention. You'll also have to pick up the tab for the bait—and you'll spend a fortune on bags and ice to bring your catch home. My best trip at Cartwright last year, which is NOT unusual, was 71 bluefish taken by three anglers in a little more than three hours. (Arm weary, we left biting fish). The 71 blues had a combined weight of over 900 pounds—and this was after they had been gutted. Not THAT'S what I call bluefishing!

NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

GREENPORT

Capt. George Porter of the **Brand X** reports the porgy fishing has been red hot all week and weekend, and he is working the Fishers Island area with clam, fish going up to 4 pounds with a lot of 2 and 2½ lb. fish. Mostly jumbos are being caught and they are coming over the rail the entire trip. George says he will be staying with the porgies a little longer since they are in so strong. The charter-boat **Eleanor** is taking a lot of blues right now also.

Wilhelric reports fantastic porgy fishing in the Sound towards Conn. with not one slow day all week. The average catch was about 30 to 60 fish per person with fish running from medium to jumbo in size.

A.P. White Bait Shop reported Sunday was really a super day for porgies. The **Brand X** came in loaded with so many that Art had a tough time getting enough ice for all the fish. Art feels that this time of year may not produce fantastic numbers of blues, but those being caught are really large fish. Pigeon Rip has been a good producer. Striper action should improve again with the cooler weather. The same is true for blackfish. Fluke are being caught off the Ruins and the breakwater along with some weakfish.

SOUTHOLD

Port of Egypt reports the porgy fishing in the bay is good with fish averaging ¾ to 1 pound. These fish are being taken at buoys 15, 16, 17 and 18 on worms and clams. Snappers are plentiful and can be taken off the shore. Porgy fishing in the Sound is good at Petty's Bight, Mulford Pt. and Rocky Pt. The fish are not as concentrated but are running bigger in size. Blackfish are being taken at the lighthouse on fiddlers, green crabs and clams. Not many fish have come in but the fish that did were all 3 pounds and better. Fluke fishing has slacked off at Truman's Beach but some are still being taken on spearing and sand eels.

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Ernie Hecker and Clay Gessner with a 7 lb. 14 oz. weakfish and a 5 lb. 2 oz. fluke taken on squid off Eaton's Neck. Photo courtesy of Bowman's Sporting Goods.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports some nice weakfishing south of buoy 22-Nassau Pt. with the biggest fish being taken by Alan Brown. The fish weighed 6 and a half pounds and was part of a catch of 16 weakfish and 85 porgies taken on sandworms. Quite a few fish coming into the station are in the 6 lb. range. A few weakfish are also being taken south of buoy 25 in the morning on the incoming tide. There are a lot of porgies in the area. Dave Holloway fished at buoy 22 and took 109 porgies averaging ¾ of a pound and 20 weaks from 1½ to 2 pounds.

AQUEBOGUE

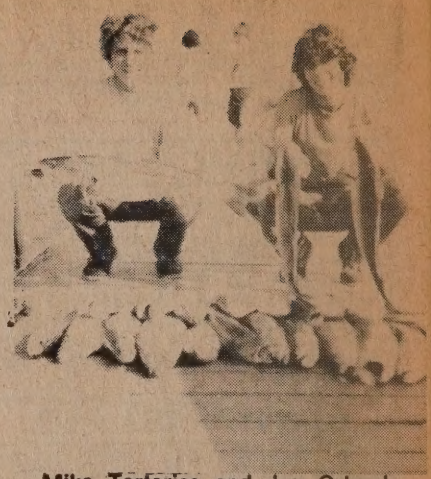
Warren's Tackle Center reports that porgies are plentiful in the bay and in the Sound and can be taken on sand worms and clams. Blackfish are being taken in the Sound on fiddlers and green crabs. Bluefish are hitting umbrella rigs at buoy 5 in the Sound and these fish are averaging 2 to 4 pounds. Weakfish can still be taken in the Roses Grove area on sand worms and squid.

JAMESPORT

Jamesport Bait and Tackle reports that porgies are all over and weakfishing is on the upswing in Peconic Bay. Fish to 5 pounds are hitting squid, sand worms and salty dogs. Flounder to 1 pound are being taken in the creeks while porgy fishing and bloodworms is the best bet right now. Blackfish are being taken in the Sound on fiddlers and green crabs with the pipelines being the best spot. Bluefish from 3 to 4 pounds and an occasional striper to 15 pounds can be taken behind the pipeline drifting sand worms.

ROCKY POINT

The Rocky Pt. Fishing Stop reports snappers and porgies are plentiful along the beaches. Bluefish are being taken along the beaches from Rocky Pt. to Shorham in the morning. These fish are averaging 4 to 6 pounds and are hitting tubes, Kastmasters and Hopkins. Bluefish from 4 to 6 pounds can still be caught at buoys 9 and 11 on umbrellas. Fluke fishing has been steady at buoys 9 and 11 on squid and sand worms.



Mike Torforice and Joe Orlando with a catch of weakfish to 7-1/4 pounds on worms at Port Jeff. Photo courtesy of Mae's Way Fishing Station.

SELDEN

Angler's Den reports that blues and weakfish have tapered off in the Sound with some blues being taken from the surf from 4 to 6 pounds off Miller Place on blue Atoms, and Hopkins Shortys. Some weakfish are mixed in. Snappers and porgies are plentiful in the area. Bluefish can still be taken at buoys 9 and 11 on umbrella rigs and some big bass are being hooked and lost at buoys 11 and 9 on umbrellas. These fish are said to be ranging in the 30 lb. class and are busting rigs on fishermen. Rod Walinchus took a 7 lb. 12 oz. weakfish off White Beach on sand worms. Tony Capra took a 12½ lb. blue trolling umbrella rigs. Jeff Hillman took a 10½ lb. bluefish off Cedar Beach on umbrellas. Pat and Joe Steiffer took several fluke fishing buoy 11 with sand eels and squid. The fish ranged from 2 to 4 pounds.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Ralph's Fishing Station reports fluke fishing has been good off White Beach with fish running over 7 pounds being taken. Jose Santiagos took a 7 lb. 15 oz. fluke which was the biggest to come into the station this past week drifting sand eels and squid off White Beach. Porgies can be taken anywhere averaging 1 pound on worms. Bluefish are being taken trolling umbrellas right outside the harbor from 3 to 4 pounds and a 3½ pound bonito was also taken here.

Mark Frank, Skip Wilkie and F. Carl with fluke of 6 lb. 9 oz., 8 lbs. and 4 lbs. 9 oz., respectively taken aboard the "Hel-Cat."

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1975 Pro-Line 20' Fiberglas, 85 h.p. Evinrude, VHF, ship-to-shore radio, depth recorder, compass, rod holders, anchor, line. In water. Dockage paid, Excellent condition. Long Beach. $3500. 516-431-7089.

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1972 28' Bertram flybridge Sportfisherman. Many extras. Kept like new. $23,500. Call 212-835-6137.

MUST SELL. '70 15' Dixie Craft Fiberglas Tri Hull. 55 h.p. Merc. Outboard - like new. w/trailer. $1200. '73 ISKA 7 h.p. Outboard. Never Used. $200. Bowser. 201-568-2684.

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1972 Fiberform 24' Cruiser 188 h.p. I/O, stand-up head, galley, sleeps 5. All Coast Guard equip., 12 ch. VHF radio. Extras. Days: 516-766-3332. Nights: 516-764-5878.

28' '72 PACEMAKER SPORTFISHERMAN, twin 220 Palmers, CB, VHF, Hailer, Recorder, Flasher, Synchronizer, outriggers, Pompanette chair, saltwater wash down. New batteries. Saltwater pump, pressure water pump, bilge blower, teiflex steering, spare wheels. Just tuned up. 350 hrs. $17,500. Also 13' Boston Whaler. $650. Evenings: 516-842-8416.

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Chrysler 210 h.p. used in saltwater, One year. $750. Chrysler 177 h.p. 450 - Rebuilt flagship 200 h.p. Chrysler M45S Manifolds, heads, starters, blocks, etc. Lawrence Fels, 516-766-4345.

1975 22' Thompson Fisherman, 165 h.p. I/O OMC with power tilt, CB, SS Prop., new battery. Full canvas. Anchor, preservers, bilge, compass and extinguisher. Very low hours. Asking $6000. 212-821-1117 After 1 PM.

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24' TROJAN, 1965, sleeps 6, BELAIR 8 Cylinder engine. $2000. MORNINGTIME MARINE. 516-HA 3-9886.

1976 20' MAKO—LIKE NEW. In the water, ready to fish the Montauk fall bass run. 135 h.p. 1973 Johnson Outboard (New power head in 1976), SST. Prop., graph recorder, VHF, full canvas. 16 rod holders. Plus usual equipment. Montauk Marina paid-up for the year. BEST OFFER over $4500. Call 212-688-4000 Days. 212-371-2731 Nights.

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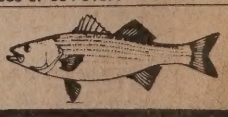

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PORGIE/SEABASS KILLER RIGS—Fill your sack. These proven rigs have 3 needle-sharp Mustad hooks tied in at the right heights to assure big catches. Hand-tied, finest quality materials. 3 for $3.50. P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, N.Y. 11566.

FLUKE KILLER RIGS. Deadly, double hook design, long the secret weapon of the "Pros." You'll hook more and lose fewer fish, since fluke can't avoid adjustable tail hook. Each rig hand-tied, using finest materials. 3 rigs for $3. P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, N.Y. 11566. Pays for itself in fluke dinners.

FISHERMEN—Cast your own sinkers, jigs, net leads, casting, and spinning lures with Sweet's Aluminum Molds. Send $1.00 for catalog. Refunded with first order. Sweet's Molds, Box 127, Springville, New York 14141.

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LACKING IMAGINATION? Don't give that fish away! 14 Saltwater Fish recipes, including clam chowder. $1.00 plus 25 cents Postage and Handling, to: J. Galletto, 7 Dwight Court, Islip, N.Y. 11751.

WANTED: Leica M-2 Range Finder, 35 mm camera. Interested in body only, or with 35 mm or 90 mm lenses. Call Pete at 201-920-1220.

I Own new 22' I/O Boat. I am looking for Fishing Partner to share gas & Bait. Must be familiar with Great South Bay fishing areas and techniques. Call After 8:30 p.m. 516-643-2588.

REAL ESTATE

120' OF OPEN BAYFRONT WITH BEACH, Dock, Floats and Magnificent View! Baldwin Harbor's exclusive "Bay Colony" section. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths, Fireplace, Country Kitchen. One of a kind! For appt., call JOYCE BAYER, 516-378-1175.

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HUMPBACKS OF MONTAUK

(Continued from page 19.)

pick up shore ranges when you do locate the fish.

Last year, the fish settled into the inner Shagwong Reef area, and few fishermen knew about it. Perhaps some of the biggest fluke came from that area for the entire year. The fluke were feeding on tiny sea bass and bergalls that were hiding in the kelp-strewn bottom of the inner reef. The best place to try for the big fluke was the ebb tide just a little north of the inner Shagwong buoy. The only drawback to fishing this region is the abundance of rocks in the region that absolutely eat up your terminal tackle—no matter how high you rig the hook. But looking at one of those twelve-pound fluke in the boat will make you forget about the lost sinkers. If you can hijack someone, the Block Island area produces some halibut-sized fish around the end of July.

From the commercial landings that have been coming into the Fulton Fish Market this past winter, it is obvious that there will be a very good body of fluke in Long Island waters this summer. It is up to you to take advantage of them.

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The Long Island FISHERMAN CONTEST

FISHING TRIP

The Long Island Fisherman Litter Box Contest gives our readers a chance of winning a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a $10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the better bait and tackle centers and pick up an L.I.F. Litter Box for the rear window of your car. Each week the license number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, call The Fisherman by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received, the cash prize will accumulate.

NATIONAL FABRICATING CO. Inc.
130 Lambert Ave., Copiague, N.Y. 11726

★ Bonus Prize ★

Contest winners also will receive a NAFABCO GIMBAL ROD BELT, the new lightweight unbreakable plastic gimbal for boat & surf

LAST WEEK'S WINNER:

Once again we have no winner for our contest, so next week's winner shall receive $40 instead of the usual $10 plus a free fishing trip for two aboard a boat of his/her choice.

THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:

NC-212

Weekly winners of the L.I.F. Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:

MONTAUK	CAPTREE	SHEEPSHEAD BAY	NORTH SHORE
Viking Star	Speedy VI	Amberjack IV	Port Jeff Ace
Peconic Queen III	Capt. Ben Litwin	Chief	Betty W
Marlin III	Capt. Joseph Fleet	FREEPORT Aloma II	

George Letman caught a 6 lb. fluke and Antonio Condello caught a 3 lb. fluke at Oyster Bay while fishing on the City Island party boat "Ebb Tide."

KINGS PARK

Bob at **Mae's Way Fishing Station** reports that the fluke and porgy fishing remained decent for those who worked at it. A few jumbo blues are being taken by sharpies using live eels and some big weaks are being plugged off the mouth of the river during the hours of darkness on Rebel lures. The weak and fluke king was Norman Schwartz who with friends Noel Tucker and Jerry Goldman caught 40 keepers on Friday, 9 on Saturday and 25 on Sunday. The fish took sand eels and squid and were caught at several locations between the mansion and Mt. Misery Shoals.

Jesse Feigelman, age 6-3/4 years, caught these eight fluke running up to 4-1/2 lbs. aboard his dad's boat, Jessana. The fish were caught east of the ruins off Gardiner's Island. Subscriber Club Photo.

The fish averaged 3½ pounds. On Saturday, Steve Savvas from Astoria came in with 1½ bushels of nice porgies taken off Callahans Beach on sand worms and skimmer clams. Wed. morning Richie and Lenny Vorno and Lenny Richen took five blues to 9½ pounds on surgical tubes at Cranes Neck. On Tuesday, Kevin Motherway, Paul Geier and Bob Donoghue caught 14 fluke from 3 to 4½ pounds at Cranes Neck drifting sand eels and squid. On Sat. young Bob Besancon weighed in a 6 lb. 4 oz. fluke he took at Callahans.

PORT JEFFERSON

The **Betty W** reports porgy action very good from 30 to 50 fish per man with blackfish now starting to show. The porgies are mostly mediums but range up to jumbos. Capt. John is fishing Cranes Neck with clam and worm.

Caraftis Fishing Station reported plenty of blues around buoy 9 early in the day and around the last of daylight. Plenty of porgies off Old Field Pt. Fluke from keepers up to 6 pounds are being taken at Mt. Misery Shoal. Snappers are still thick throughout the area.

NORTHPORT

Bowman's Sporting Goods reported there are blues in the Sound but you can't be certain of getting them. James Liffner of E. Northport weighed in a 12 pound 10 oz. blue taken around buoy 13. Bunker are around in good numbers. Umbrella rigs are doing better than surgical tubing for the blues which are holding deep in 35 to 40 feet of water from buoy 13 to 11B. Weakfish can be taken at Vaughn's Neck. Best times are 2 hours before and 2 hours after high tide. Robert Tota of E. Northport got a 7 lb. weakfish with worms on a Cape Cod Spinner. Tom noted you'll either get a few or no weakfish at all depending if you can find a school. Porgies are taking sand worms and snapper blues are taking small lures off the town dock. Stripers are scarce, but the seven day a week fishermen are getting some 10-12 pounders at Eaton's Neck with clam chumming and clam bellies for bait.

HUNTINGTON

Four Winds Tackle reports that fluke fishing is good off Lloyd Pt., Diamond Pt. and Eatons Neck. A lot of 6 to 7 lb. fish came in this week and the fish are hitting sand eels, squid, spearing and snapper fillet. Bluefish are hitting bunker chunks off Marshall Field and Eatons Neck with no big number of fish being caught. Weakfish to 8 pounds and blues to 12 are hitting umbrella rigs at buoys 15 and 13 in the evening. Porgy fishing is holding strong and Marshall Field is the best bet. Snappers are getting bigger and if you plan on using them for fluke bait, your best bet is to make fillets.

Capt. Don of the **Ever Ready** called to say that on Friday's trip, one angler had 63 fish comprising a mixed bag of snappers, a weakfish, flounder, fluke, and porgies. On Sunday his passengers had over 500 fish on board with one senior citizen having 86 fish, all mixed. Don says to let you know that the fare includes free squid and clam.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle reported lots of porgies all over the area. Snappers are around in good numbers and now going about 10 inches long. No big scores on blues from individual fishermen, but the party boat **North Star** brought in about 50-60 big blues one day last week. The fish were in the 12-14 lb. range and were taken around the K buoy off Hempstead Harbor using chunk bunker. No big bass weighed in last week.

GROTON CONN.

Capt. Brad Glas of the party boat **Hel-Cat** said by popular demand he is now bluefishing. The grand prize winner in the boat's fluke division is Armando Madena of Ledyard with a 10 lb. 2 oz. fluke. Armando will receive a custom rod and reel for his fish. Bluefishing is sporadic. One day the fish are there, but zingo, they're gone. Weekly winner in the boat's bluefish division is Tony Zukaukas of S. Windsor with a 12 lb. 4 oz. blue. The grand prize winner in this division will also receive a custom rod and reel. During the day the boat sails on an open boat basis and is also available during the eve or night for charter trips.

HIGH TIDE TABLES

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR	5:15	5:44	6:06	6:38	6:02	6:29	6:57	7:20	9:26	9:47	8:52	9:15	5:23	5:54	8/25
FRI	6:09	6:37	7:05	7:34	7:00	7:25	7:52	8:15	10:24	10:46	9:50	10:11	6:23	6:50	8/26
SAT	7:01	7:27	8:00	8:24	7:54	8:15	8:44	9:08	11:15	11:36	10:41	11:03	7:16	7:38	8/27
SUN	7:50	8:14	8:50	9:21	8:43	9:01	9:33	9:56	—	12:02	11:30	11:52	8:04	8:24	8/28
MON	8:38	8:59	9:38	9:57	9:29	9:47	10:20	10:42	12:23	12:46	—	12:16	8:50	9:08	8/29
TUE	9:23	9:42	10:21	10:43	10:15	10:33	11:05	11:25	1:05	1:26	12:36	12:59	9:32	9:51	8/30
WED	10:06	10:26	11:07	11:25	11:01	11:19	11:48	—	1:45	2:00	1:21	1:42	10:14	10:33	8/31
THUR	10:51	11:10	11:49	—	11:47	—	12:10	12:34	2:18	2:32	2:04	2:26	10:55	11:16	9/1

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet.....—0 50" is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." —0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6 ½ hours to this figure.

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+ 0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	—0 01
Red Bank, Navesink R.I.	+ 0 48
Long Branch	—0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	—0 18
Shark River Basin	+ 0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	—0 12
Seaside Park	—0 33
Mantoloking Bridge	+ 5 34
TOMS RIVER	+ 4 37
Waretown	+ 2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	—0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+ 2 33
Beach Haven	+ 1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	—0 01
Seven Islands	+ 0 12
Graveling Point	+ 1 05
Mullica River	+ 1 55
Grassy Bay	+ 1 08
ABSECON INLET	+ 0 14
Atlantic City Pier	—0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+ 0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+ 0 46
CORSON INLET	+ 0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+ 0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+ 0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+ 0 45
Cape May Harbor	—0 02
Rehoboth Beach	—0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+ 0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	—0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+ 1 25
East Quogue	+ 2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+ 1 18
Indian Reservation	+ 3 05
MORICHES INLET	—0 56
Smith's Point	+ 3 28
Harts Cove	+ 1 30
Potunck Point	+ 3 35
Mastic Beach	+ 3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	—0 38
Democrat Point	—0 38
Coast Guard Station	—0 19
Fire Island Light	+ 0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+ 3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+ 3 20
Bay Shore	+ 2 23
Babylon	+ 2 12
Amityville	+ 2 21
JONES INLET	—0 19
Zachs Bay	+ 1 25
Seaford Harbor	+ 2 05
Freeport Creek	+ 0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+ 0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	—0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+ 0 38
JFK Airport	+ 0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+ 0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+ 0 08
Bayville Bridge	+ 0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+ 0 03
Northport Bay	+ 0 03
Norwalk Islands	+ 0 10
Smithtown Bay	—0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+ 0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+ 0 03
New Haven Harbor	+ 0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	—0 08
Herod Point	—0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+ 0 19
Horton Point	—0 20
Truman Beach	—0 42
Falkner Island	—0 13
Sachem Head	—0 10
Branford Harbor	—0 07
New Haven Harbor	—0 08
Milford Harbor	—0 07
Stratford	+ 0 27
Shelton	+ 1 36
Black Rock Harbor	—0 03
Saugatuck River	—0 01
South Norwalk	+ 0 10
Greens Ledge	—0 01
Stamford	+ 0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+ 0 06
Greenwich	+ 0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+ 0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+ 0 12
Greenport	+ 1 04
Southold	+ 1 43
New Suffolk	+ 2 26
South Jamesport	+ 2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+ 2 33
Noyack Bay	+ 2 05
Sag Harbor	+ 0 59
Gardiners Bay	+ 0 21
Promised Land	—0 14
Montauk Inlet	—0 25
Montauk Point	—1 13
Niantic	+ 1 20
Stonington	—0 33
Noank, Mystic River	—0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	—0 01
Norwich	+ 0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+ 1 10
Lyme	+ 1 24
Essex	+ 1 38
East Haddam	+ 2 41
Higganum Creek	+ 2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	—0 10
Execution Light	—0 06
Manhasset Bay	—0 01
Hempstead Harbor	—0 11
City Island	—0 03
Rye Beach	—0 28
Port Chester	—0 09
Mamaroneck	—0 08
New Rochelle	—0 24
Davids Island	—0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	—0 10
Miami Beach	+ 1 17
East Point	+ 0 53
Egg Island Point	+ 0 33
Cape Henlopen	—0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+ 0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+ 0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+ 0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+ 0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+ 0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+ 0 58
Ossining	+ 1 53
Peekskill	+ 2 24
West Point	+ 3 16
Newburg	+ 3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	—0 10
Tiverton	+ 0 21
Beavertail Point	—0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+ 0 10
Bristol	+ 0 10
Warren	+ 0 21
Nayatt Point	+ 0 12
Pawtucket	+ 0 21
East Greenwich	+ 0 16
Wickford	+ 0 12
Narragansett Pier	—0 08
Point Judith Harbor	—0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+ 0 05
Old Harbor	—0 14
Watch Hill Point	+ 0 44

SUNRISE/SUNSET

8/4	5:56	8:15
8/9	6:01	8:09
8/14	6:06	8:02
8/19	6:12	7:55
8/24	6:17	7:47
8/29	6:22	7:39

PHASES OF THE MOON

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
8/14	8/22	8/28	8/6

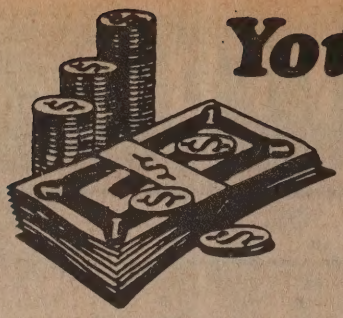
The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour-and-a-half or two hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
THURS.	1:55	**8:40**	2:30	**9:05**
FRI.	2:50	**9:30**	3:20	**10:00**
SAT.	3:40	**10:20**	4:15	**10:50**
SUN.	4:35	**11:10**	5:05	**11:35**
MON.	5:20	**—**	5:50	**12:05**
TUES.	6:15	**12:25**	6:40	**12:45**
WED.	6:55	**1:20**	7:30	**1:45**
THURS.	8:00	**2:10**	8:20	**2:35**

DON'T LET THIS ONE GET AWAY!



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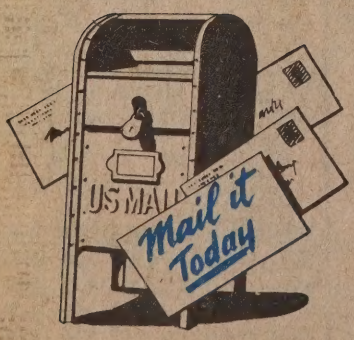
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